

MAY 2026

# THE LIGHT



A NEWSLETTER OF EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BASTROP, TEXAS

## From the Pastor's Desk

The Multiplication Movement

[I'm writing this on the heels of a journey with Elder Alex Monroe to San Diego to gather with some other LCMS folks who are embracing a shift in how we "do church" from "come and see" to "go and share." Through our Texas District I got plugged into an organization called Exponential (exponential.org) in late 2020; last fall Alex was invited to attend three seminars with me to explore what it means to be a "kingdom church," rather than a "castle church;" in other words, how can we more efficiently—and faithfully—connect, grow, and multiply?]

Jesus' words in Matthew 28 are familiar to most Christians: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." Yet many churches—including ours—are rediscovering that Jesus did not simply command us to gather crowds or maintain institutions. He called his Church to make disciples: people who follow Christ, grow in His Word, and help others do the same.

That simple but powerful idea lies behind much of what is called the "multiplication movement." At first, the word multiplication may sound like business language or church-growth strategy. But at its heart, it is deeply biblical. In the book of Acts, the Gospel spread because ordinary believers shared Christ with others, who then shared Him with still more people. Disciples made disciples. Churches planted churches. The faith multiplied.

Books like *Making Disciples* by Ralph Moore and *Multiplier* by Dave Ferguson have helped many Christians and congregations recover this New Testament mindset, that disciple-making is not a complicated program but a lifestyle of intentionally investing in others spiritually. Healthy disciples naturally reproduce (not unlike parents raising children who eventually raise families of their own)—this is the multiplication movement.

Organizations like Exponential have become gathering places for churches asking an important question: What if we measured success not only by attendance, buildings, programs, or budgets, but by how many disciples are being formed and sent into the world? Exponential describes its mission as accelerating "healthy, reproducing faith communities" and helping churches move from simple addition to multiplication.

This is the language of our congregation's mission tagline: "Connect. Grow. Multiply." We connect people to Christ and to one another through worship, fellowship, and relationships centered in the Gospel.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Our Pastor



REV. E.B. HOLSCHUH

[pastor@epiphanybastrop.org](mailto: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](mailto:augustana@gmail.com)

Clayton Wolf, Vice President  
979-966-9610  
[clayton\\_wolf@yahoo.com](mailto:clayton_wolf@yahoo.com)

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512-332-2144  
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512-567-1306  
[rosser.tom@gmail.com](mailto:rosser.tom@gmail.com)

Esther Monroe, Secretary  
847-848-5126  
[monroe.esther@gmail.com](mailto:monroe.esther@gmail.com)

## Pastor's Note Continued

We *grow* through Word and Sacrament, Bible study, prayer, and lives of repentance and faith. But discipleship does not stop there. Healthy disciples also *multiply*. They invite others. They share the hope of Christ. They mentor younger believers. They raise children in the faith. They encourage neighbors, coworkers, and friends toward Jesus.

This multiplication is not about turning Christians into salespeople or pressuring people into awkward evangelism. Rather, it reflects the natural overflow of faith and love. Andrew brought Peter to Jesus. Philip invited Nathanael. The Samaritan woman told her village about Christ. Throughout Scripture, disciples simply shared the Savior they had come to know.

That is why disciple-making is not only the pastor's work. It belongs to the whole Church. Every Christian already lives within networks of relationships God has uniquely provided: family, friends, schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, teams, and community groups. Often the most powerful witness happens not in a sanctuary, but across a dinner table, over coffee, or during everyday conversations.

The multiplication movement also reminds us that Jesus himself spent most of his earthly ministry investing deeply in a relatively small group of disciples. For roughly three years, he taught them, corrected them, encouraged them, and eventually sent them. The result was not merely addition—but multiplication that spread across the world.

As Epiphany Lutheran Church continues to grow, these ideas can help shape our mission and culture. We are not simply building a church property or gathering for weekly worship—important as those things are. We are seeking, by God's grace, to become disciples who make disciples. Or, to say it another way: Christians who Connect, Grow, and Multiply.

And the good news is this: Jesus never commands what He does not also empower. The same Lord who said, "Go and make disciples," also promised, "I am with you always."

More about this in the weeks and months ahead...

Pastor E.B.

**KFUO  
Radio**

Christ for you.  
Anytime. Anywhere.

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

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**



**EPIPHANY**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS



[epiphanybastrop.org](http://epiphanybastrop.org)



[church@epiphanybastrop.org](mailto:church@epiphanybastrop.org)



Epiphany Lutheran Church



@epiphanybastrop

# Yay God!

## LAND DEDICATION

MAY 2, 2026

Over 100 people gathered on a beautiful, albeit muddy, day to celebrate the land with which God has blessed us to grow His Kingdom in Bastrop. We are truly grateful for all those who gave time, talent, and treasure to make it a glorious day!



This drawing by local artist, Tobin Bortner, was commissioned based on a photo by our very own Jeremy Clifton as a commemorative reminder of all of those who supported Epiphany on this special day and a reminder of Epiphany's mission to *Connect, Grow, and Multiply*. The hands in the clouds represent children's hands expressing the age-old rhyme, "This is the church. This is the steeple. [Open the doors]. and See all the people. Tobin notes, "Open the doors is intentionally not drawn... That piece of the story is purposefully left to the people of Epiphany Lutheran Church. I pray God-speed, divine blessing, and abundant prosperity as you "open the doors" to the future God has in store for this place."



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

- |                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| Elaine Ottinger     | May 11 |
| Deb Layland         | May 22 |
| Tom & Terri Rosser  | May 29 |
| Fred & Carita Botha | May 29 |

# COMMUNITY NEWS



## Adult Sunday School 9:00AM

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.



**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!**



**Zoom Study**  
**Thursdays, 6pm**  
**Through May 21**  
A video study on the story of Esther

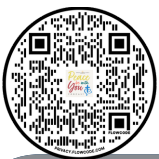
Register: [bit.ly/ELC-ThisMoment](https://bit.ly/ELC-ThisMoment)

Twice monthly devotion and prayer gathering

MEETS 1ST/3RD TUESDAYS | 3PM

JOIN US FOR

**MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT**



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



**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



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

We were blessed by a visit during Bible Study on May 3rd, from Raelyn Pracht who explained how we can start/grow our investments while also supporting Kingdom growth through the Texas Church Extension Fund. Many options include simple savings accounts, fixed and floating rate notes, and IRAs - all enable CEF to provide low rate loans for growth of Texas LCMS churches. It's a win-win! Contact Texas CEF if you would like to learn how you can save for your future and support Epiphany at the same time.



## Coffee Cake Baking Class

Sat. May 30 • 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](mailto:twhsdirector@gmail.com) to pre-pay for your spot

## Wendish Easter Egg Decorating Class

June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Texas Wendish Museum

1011 CR 212, Giddings, TX 78942



Discover the art of crafting decorative Wendish Easter eggs with instructors Sandra Matthijetz and Susan Unger at the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum. Create your own masterpieces and take home essential tools to continue developing your egg-decorating skills.

The cost of the class is \$75 and includes all supplies, tools, an egg-decorating book, snacks, and instruction. Please bring a lunch, as this is an all-day class.

Email us at [museum@texaswends.org](mailto:museum@texaswends.org) to reserve your spot. Payment is required at the time of registration to secure your place.

## 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



May 2026 Newsletter



### Spring Fundraisers a Tasty Success

Thank you to all who participated in this year's spring fundraisers: bakers, cooks, and customers alike. Our Good Friday homemade bake sale items as well as our FLHS Boosters-made chicken spaghetti casseroles SOLD SOLD SOLD. We are very grateful for everyone's hard work. Here's to many Faith-filled tummies!

### The Spring Thing!

FLHS proudly presents The Spring Thing! This will be a showcase of our students' work in the fine arts department, including vocal, instrumental, and handbell pieces. Please join us Wednesday, May 6th, at 7pm.

### Summer Camps Are Set

May 26-28 Basketball Total Cost \$20  
June 1-2 Archery Total Cost \$15, Novice or Experienced  
June 8-10 Volleyball Total Cost \$20  
June 15-17 STEM Total Cost \$40  
June 22-24 Art Total Cost \$40  
Call: 979-242-2889 or email: [kueckn@flhstx.org](mailto:kueckn@flhstx.org) for further details and registration forms.



Contact us:

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

### New Student Registration

Do you know a young person who would benefit from the Faith Lutheran High School experience? Don't we all! Registration for 2025-2026 is underway, and new students are already enrolling. We would love to meet with even more hopeful students and their families, and that's where you come in. Please help us grow Faith by spreading the word in person and on social media. Those interested can learn more and request registration materials by calling (979) 242-2889 or visiting our website at [flhstx.org](http://flhstx.org). Blessings!

### Can You Hear Us Now?

Do you listen to local nonprofit radio station KTIM, 89.1 FM? If so, get ready to hear about our school on its rotating community billboard. Faith has a 30-second ad that will run daily and be refreshed every few months to stay current. We soon will be placing paid ads (sponsored by generous patrons!) on KBUK, 104.9 FM, KULM, 98.3 FM, and KNRG, 92.3 FM, all local country/Americana stations. Can You Hear Us Now???



### 9th FLHS Golf "Fore" Education Tournament

Join us in La Grange at Frisch Auf Country Club, Friday, May 29th for an 8am/1pm shotgun start. Our annual tournament benefiting Faith is perfect for every level of player. Just come out, have fun, and support our school! 4-man teams are \$100/person, including golf cart and lunch, and many prizes will be awarded. We are also seeking Silver, Gold, and Platinum sponsors (playing is NOT required, but please claim by Wednesday, May 14th to meet printing deadlines). Registration fliers are available throughout the community. Please contact the school at 979-242-2889, Jonathan Kueck at [kueckj@flhstx.org](mailto:kueckj@flhstx.org), or Layne Schramm at [layneschramm@hotmail.com](mailto:layneschramm@hotmail.com) for further details.

Good Faith, Players!

CONGRATUALATIONS  
TO OUR SENIORS

GRADUATION  
MAY 23<sup>RD</sup> 1:30 PM





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

**May 10 (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 17 (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.

**May 24 (Lesson 5)** This week, we study "A Jail Bail." King Herod launches attacks on the Church, killing James, the brother of John. When Herod sees how much this pleases the Jews, he has Peter imprisoned. Peter is guarded by four squads of soldiers as the Church prays for him. That night, an angel appears and leads Peter past the guards and out of the prison. Peter knocks at the gate of the house where the others are gathered in prayer. A servant girl, Rhoda, answers. She is so excited that she runs to tell the others, leaving Peter to continue knocking. An angel of the Lord strikes Herod down for his pride.

**May 31 (Lesson 6)** "On Your Feet" is this week's lesson. The Holy Spirit leads the Church at Antioch to send Paul and Barnabas on a momentous missionary journey. In Lystra, they heal a man who had never been able to walk. The people who see this think Paul and Barnabas are gods come down to earth, and they attempt to offer sacrifices to them. In grief, Paul and Barnabas tear their clothes and rush into the crowd, barely preventing them from making the offerings.

### 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

- Charles - cancer
- Clayton - cancer
- Fritz
- Rev. Timothy Dinger
- Lauren - MS treatments
- Carl and Sandy Sneck
- Fred Sager
- Jimmy
- Tom and Marianne
- Mica Farr
- Our Argent Court friends - Fay, Francis, Jim, Anita, Elaine, Gert, Ranita, Sally
- Carl Guetersloh

## ***The Life of the 1<sup>st</sup>-Century Church***

In the 1<sup>st</sup> century after Jesus' ascension, the word "church" did not primarily refer to a building, denomination, or institution. The New Testament word translated as "church" is the Greek word *ekklesia*, meaning "assembly" or "those who are called out." The Church was the community of believers gathered around the risen Christ through His Word, Baptism, prayer, fellowship, and the breaking of bread.

The earliest Christians met wherever they could. At first, many gathered in the courts of the Jerusalem Temple (Acts 2:46), since the apostles and the first believers were Jews who still participated in the rhythms of synagogue and temple life. But Christians also met in private homes. The New Testament repeatedly mentions "the church in their house" (Romans 16:5; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 2). Wealthier believers often opened their homes as meeting places for worship, teaching, meals, and prayer. In times of persecution, Christians sometimes gathered quietly or in smaller groups, but the Church continued to spread throughout cities, villages, and across the Roman Empire.

Their worship centered on Jesus Christ crucified and risen. According to Acts 2:42, the believers "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Worship included the reading and teaching of Scripture, the apostles' preaching, psalms and hymns, prayers, confession of faith, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper. Christians viewed the Eucharist not merely as a memorial meal, but as Christ's gift to His people, strengthening them in faith and unity.

The Church also cared deeply for one another. Believers shared resources, supported widows and the poor, and treated fellow Christians as family. This love became a powerful witness to the surrounding world. Jesus had said, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Disciple-making happened relationally and publicly. The apostles preached openly in cities and synagogues, but the faith also spread through households, friendships, travel, and ordinary conversations. Christians understood themselves as witnesses of what Christ had done. New believers were baptized, taught the Scriptures, and gradually formed into communities of worship and service. The Great Commission of Jesus—to "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19–20)—was not viewed as a task only for clergy, but as the mission of the whole Church.

Leadership developed organically under the guidance of the apostles and the Holy Spirit. Elders (presbyters), overseers (bishops), and deacons were appointed to teach, shepherd, and care for the congregation. Yet the Church's true foundation was not human organization, but Christ Himself. Christians believed they were part of the living Body of Christ, spread across many places yet united by one Lord, one faith, and one Baptism.

In short, the first-century Church was a Spirit-filled community gathered around Jesus Christ. It was flexible in location, simple in structure, devoted to worship and teaching, sacrificial in love, and relentlessly focused on making disciples who would carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth.