

Sunday, August 23rd 2026

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Mailing Address:

**Epiphany Lutheran Church
489 Agnes
Suite 112, Box 117
Bastrop, TX 78602**

Physical Address:

**Epiphany Lutheran Church
124 Three Oaks Lane
Bastrop, TX 78602**

**Rev. E. B. Holschuh – Pastor
(512) 798-3682 (Voicemail/Text)
pastor@epiphanybastrop.org**

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facebook.com/epiphanybastrop**

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.



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.

If you are not a member of a congregation in The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive Communion, we kindly request that you first speak with our pastor.

SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Pastor – Rev. E.B. Holschuh
Lay Reader – Jeremy Clifton
Assisting Elder – Alex Monroe
Usher – Rosie Cabrera
Acolyte – Calvin Monroe

We are using the Church Music Solutions Church Organist Service, an iPad application that provides us with accompaniment for our worship service. **There is a brief introduction to the musical parts of the liturgy unless otherwise noted.**

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

The Lord Jesus Christ Is the Son of the Living God

Jesus asked His disciples: “*But who do you say that I am?*” (Matt. 16:15). The question is also put to us: Who do you say that He is? Flesh and blood do not reveal this to us, but by the ministry of the Gospel, the Father in heaven reveals His Son to us on earth, who has become flesh and suffered death for our salvation. Thus, we believe and confess that He is “*the Christ, the Son of the living God*” (Matt. 16:16). As He died for our transgressions and was raised for our justification, He looses us from all our sins and preserves our life within His Church, against which even “*the gates of hell shall not prevail*” (Matt. 16:18–19). His salvation is forever, and His righteousness “*will never be dismayed*” (Is. 51:6). He comforts us with the Gospel in His Church, so that “*joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song*” (Is. 51:3). Therefore, “*according to the measure of faith that God has assigned*” (Rom. 12:3), we also offer ourselves “*as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God*” (Rom. 12:1) through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR

Prelude

Selected Music

Welcome and Greeting

Pastor

Announcements

Opening Hymn

“Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s Head”

LSB 647

(stand)

Holy Baptism – Anastasia Lanette Shoemate

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

☐ In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

☑ 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 28:1-2, 6-7

P As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill.

C **I will tell of the decree:**

**The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you."
Praise the LORD, all nations!**

P Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

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 (no intro)

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 God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(sit)

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

¹“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD:
look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
that I might bless him and multiply him.
³For the LORD comforts Zion;
he comforts all her waste places
and makes her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
⁴“Give attention to me, my people,
and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me,
and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.
⁵My righteousness draws near,
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will judge the peoples;
the coastlands hope for me,
and for my arm they wait.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my righteousness will never be dismayed.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Romans 11:33-12:8

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?”

³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

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

Matthew 16:13-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed

in heaven.” ²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(sit)

Hymn of the Day

“Built on the Rock”

LSB 645

Sermon

Peter the Rock

Matthew 16:13-20

(stand)

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. 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 good, 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, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by
His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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 (no intro)

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



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:

**☩ 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."

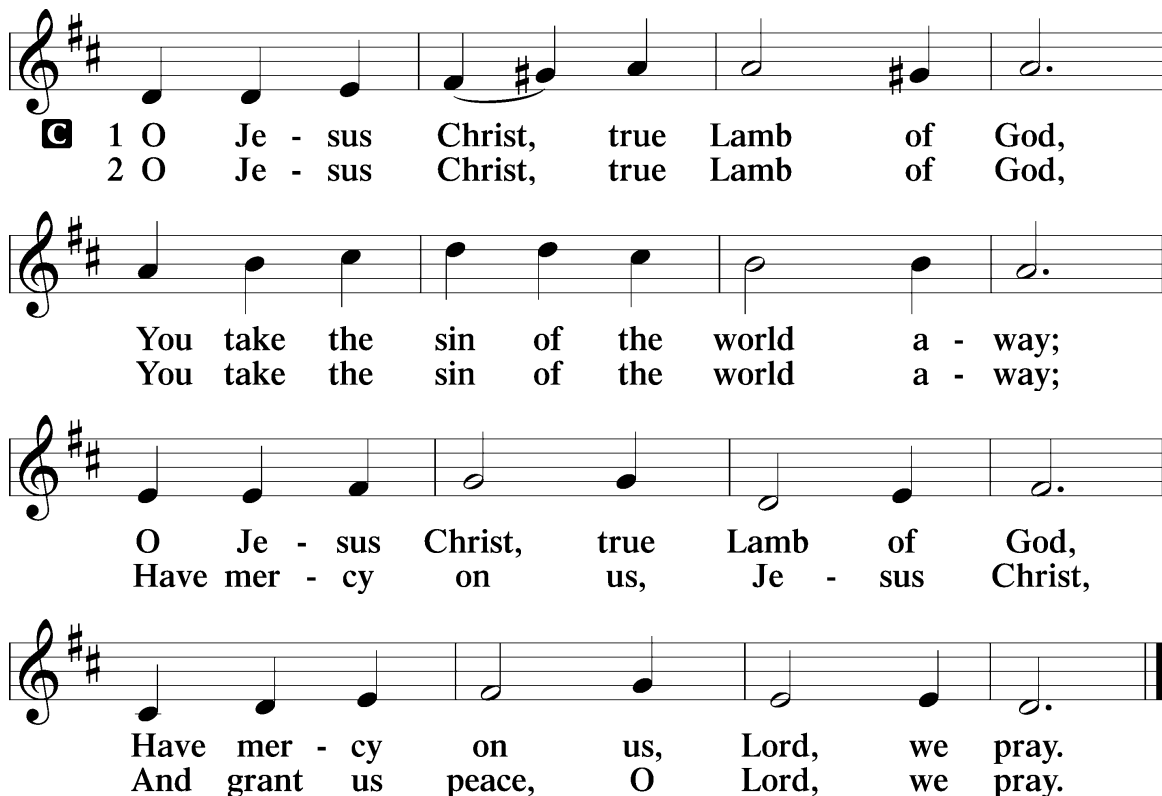
Pax Domini

John 20:19

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- ☩ 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 Hymns

*"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
"Christ Is the World's Redeemer"*

LSB 575
LSB 539

(stand)

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the 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 the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the 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

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

LSB 909

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.

SERMON NOTES: Matthew 16:13-20

Peter the Rock

1. With the question “Who do you say I am?,” he’s not taking a _____; Jesus is looking for a _____ — from the disciples lips, yes, but, most importantly from their _____.
 2. It’s extremely important that the disciples _____ Jesus for who he really is, _____ for who _____ say he is.
 3. Peter’s _____ is in no way the _____ of his own reason, intellect, or any other meritorious quality or _____ on his part.
 4. “You are _____, and on this _____ I will build my _____...”
 5. Peter’s rock-like _____ of faith was the solid _____ on which Jesus would build his _____.
 6. The best way to _____ what _____ means—here in our passage or anywhere else in the Gospels—is to let Scripture _____ Scripture.
-

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.

Epiphany Events Calendar: Our congregation calendar is on our website (epiphanybastrop.org); to add an event, please email secretary@epiphanybastrop.org.

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.



9am Adult Sunday School: Join us as we continue the video study, *Drive Thru History: Ends of the Earth*. We're following 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.

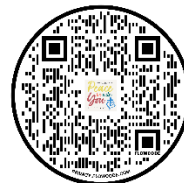
New 9am Adult Sunday School series starts September 6! Join us for *Sustaining Connections: Living Life in Community*, exploring what it means to be a “disciple-able” follower of Jesus... Come discover how God uses His Word, His people, and His mission to shape us into the kind of church described in Acts—a church that lives life together and shares the hope of Christ with the world. We'll step into how God forms ordinary believers into mature disciples who connect, grow, and multiply!

Sunday School Challenge! On Sept. 6, we'll begin a new 7-week 9am Sunday School series, *Sustaining Connections: Living Life in Community*—and we're challenging all of our adult members to participate! Gathering around God's Word is essential to the spiritual health of every Christian and of our congregation as a whole. Together we'll explore what it means to be “disciple-able”—willing to be taught, shaped, encouraged, challenged, and sent by Christ—and how the early Christians lived out their faith through God's Word, fellowship, worship, prayer, generosity, and witness. We invite YOU to make these 7 sessions a priority—come and grow together with your Epiphany family! Then...

... join us for a **Reformation/Oktoberfest Rally Sunday on Oct. 25!** There will be no regular Sunday school that morning. Instead, our Epiphany family will gather for food, fellowship, and fun—BBQ and potluck, quality time together, and maybe some cornhole, horseshoes, or other activities. Hopefully, the weather by then will be much more agreeable to humanoids. If you'd like to help in making the day especially memorable, please contact Fred or Carita Botha.



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 (or just scan the QR code).



Another opportunity to get plugged into a Bible study—a **new Wednesday 6:30pm video study begins on September 9**. Have you been feeling weighed down by worry? Or caught up in a web of self-critical thoughts? Learn to overcome common thought traps like anxiety, guilt, rejection, dissatisfaction, and more. Join us here at Three Oaks for *Tame Your Thoughts*, a 6-session video series from Max Lucado. No matter who you are or where you come from, progress is possible!

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 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.

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

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 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 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.

Answers to Sermon Notes:
1. With the question "Who do you say I am?" he's not taking a *poll*. Jesus is looking for a *confession*—from the disciples' lips, yes, but, most importantly from their *hearts*.
2. It's extremely important that the disciples *confess* Jesus for who he really is, *not* for who *others* say he is.
3. Peter's *confession* is in no way the *product* of his own reason, intellect, or any other meritorious quality or *effort* on his part.
4. "You are *Peter*, and on this *rock* I will build my *church*..."
5. Peter's rock-like *confession* of faith was the solid *foundation* on which Jesus would build his *Church*.
6. The best way to *understand* what *Jesus* means—here in our passage or anywhere else in the Gospels—is to let Scripture *interpret* Scripture.

THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:

Sunday, August 23rd

- 9:00am – Children's Sunday School
- 9:00am – Adult Sunday School
- 10:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 10:30am – Worship Service with Communion
- Immediately Following the Service – Voters Meeting

Sunday, August 30th

- 9:00am – Children's Sunday School
 - 9:00am – Adult Sunday School
 - 10:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
 - 10:30am – Worship Service with Communion
-

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.

Please continue to pray for...

- Rev. Eric and Johanna Stinnett and their children, Rachael, Naomi, Luke, and Levi – missionaries in Ethiopia
 - Fay Betak, Francis Eschberger, Jim Haynes, Anita Hickman, Ranita Murphy, Elaine Ottinger, Sally Potthast, Gert Schriener, and all the residents at Argent Court Assisted Living in Bastrop
 - Sandy Giro
 - Lisa Clontz
 - Carl and Sandy Sneck
 - Clayton Wolf
-



2026 - 2027 Faculty and Staff

- Mrs. Margie Clifton - Part-Time Handbells
- Pastor E.B. Holschuh - Part-Time Religion, English
- Mr. Gary Himmler - Part-time Science, Math
- Mr. Jonathan Kueck - Religion, English, Health, P.E.
- Mrs. Nikki Kueck - Administrator, History, Spanish
- Mrs. Kristin Lehmann - Science, Math, Technology
- Mrs. Laura Phillips - Office Manager and Marketing

Camp Lone Star Retreat

FLHS students & faculty are preparing for our **annual retreat to Camp Lone Star, 8/27-8/28**. Prayers are welcome, as we prepare for this valuable experience for all students. As always, we greatly appreciate food and monetary donations. Please reach out if you can support our retreat. Thanks!

Save the Date - Oktoberfest

FLHS's Oktoberfest is set for **Saturday, October 24th**. We are already planning for our best event yet!

Wait! Is that Faith on the big screen?

Coming soon to a theater near you...we are spreading the news about FLHS farther and wider than ever before. In a few weeks, you'll see us at the movies, both in Bastrop and Brenham. Get to your theater a little early to see our ad playing before every movie in both locations!

Faith-full Listeners

Faith is also on the air! 30-second radio spots run daily on local stations KTIM, 89.1 FM, KBUK, 104.9 FM, and KNRG, 92.3 FM. Our back-to-school message runs through August. Listen for "The Voice of FLHS"!

Thrivent Action Team Grants

Thrivent member? To supplement ongoing projects and activities at Faith, we ask those willing to submit an application for a \$250 grant to contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck at (979) 242-2889 or kueckn@flhstx.org. Thank you for helping us access these additional funds!

The List That Keeps On Giving, Thanks to You

FLHS has an Amazon wish list of needed materials for the upcoming school year. Just click on the Amazon link on either our Facebook page or website. Thank you for your generous support, as we provide the necessary supplies for both students and staff!



SCHEDULE YOUR
VISIT TODAY
CALL TO INQUIRE
AT (979) 242-2889



 FAITH LUTHERAN
HIGH SCHOOL OF CENTRAL TEXAS



On This Rock I Will Build My Church

Few verses have generated as much discussion in the history of the Church as Matthew 16:18. What exactly is the “rock” upon which Jesus promises to build His Church?

“σὺ εἶ Πέτρος, καὶ ἐπὶ ταύτῃ τῇ πέτρᾳ οἰκοδομήσω μου τὴν ἐκκλησίαν...”
“You are Peter, and on this the rock I will build my the church...”

The Greek contains an unmistakable play on words. Jesus says, “You are Peter”—Petros—“and on this rock”—petra—“I will build my church.” Sometimes it is suggested that *petra* refers specifically to Peter’s confession because *petra* is a feminine Greek noun, as is the Greek word for “confession”—more likely, however, *petra* is feminine simply because the Greek noun meaning “rock” is grammatically feminine.

The more important clue is the conversation itself. Jesus had asked His disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:15–16). Jesus immediately explained that Peter had not figured this out for himself: “Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.”

Then Jesus speaks of the rock. Peter’s rock-like confession of faith was the solid foundation on which Jesus would build His Church. Peter, his confession, and the Christ whom he confesses belong closely together. Peter is not the rock because there is something extraordinary or infallible about Simon Peter himself. He is “rock” as the apostle who has received God’s revelation and boldly confesses Jesus as the Christ. We see how important that distinction is only a few verses later.

When Jesus begins teaching that He must go to Jerusalem, suffer, die, and rise again, Peter objects: “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” Suddenly Jesus’ words to Peter change dramatically: “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me” (Matthew 16:22–23).

What happened to the “rock”? Peter had stopped speaking God's revealed Word and begun speaking according to human wisdom. When Peter confesses Christ according to God's revelation, he is rock. When Peter contradicts Christ and His cross, he becomes a stumbling block.

There is an important lesson here for Christ's Church still today. The Church does not rest upon the personality, charisma, intelligence, or abilities of pastors, church leaders, or individual Christians. Nor does the Church survive because we successfully adapt Christianity to every changing opinion of the culture. The Church stands upon Christ and the apostolic confession of Christ.

“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” That remains our confession. And the Christ we confess is the Christ who went exactly where Peter did not want Him to go—to the cross. There He suffered for our sins, shed His blood for our forgiveness, and rose victorious from the grave.

Pastors come and go. Congregations grow and decline. Cultures rise and fall. Human opinions change. But Christ remains. And His promise remains with Him: “I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

The great comfort in those words is the subject of the sentence. Jesus does not say, *You will build My Church*. He says, “I will.”

