

Sunday, October 4th 2026

**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
LWML Sunday**



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)
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WELCOME TO EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH!

“How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!”
(Psalm 84:1) We are thankful that God has brought you here with us this morning to hear His Word and receive His gifts! You’ll find everything you need for the worship service in this bulletin and in *Lutheran Service Book*, our hymnal. If you have any questions about our worship service, our congregation, or what we believe, please ask our pastor or any of our members.



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 – Rosie Cabrera
Assisting Elder – Ryan Robb
Usher – Calvin Monroe
Acolyte – E.J. Clontz

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 True Vine Redeems the Vineyard of the LORD of Hosts

“The vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel” (Is. 5:7), which He planted *“on a very fertile hill”* (Is. 5:1). He did everything for His vineyard, not only clearing it of stones and planting it with *“choice vines,”* but also building the *“watchtower”* of His prophets and hewing out the *“wine vat”* of His priesthood in its midst (Is. 5:2). But when *“he looked for it to yield grapes,”* there were only *“wild grapes”* of bloodshed and unrighteousness (Is. 5:2, 7). The Lord Jesus likewise described the unfaithfulness of those who were called to care for His vineyard (Matt. 21:33–35). But in this He also describes His cross and Passion (Matt. 21:38–39), by which He has redeemed the vineyard for Himself. He is the true Vine, planted by death into the ground, and in His resurrection He brings forth *“the fruits in their seasons”* (Matt. 21:41). Among those good grapes of the true Vine is the apostle Paul. Once a zealous persecutor of the Church, he *“suffered the loss of all things”* in order to *“gain Christ and be found in him,”* to *“know him and the power of his resurrection”* (Phil. 3:8–10).

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR

Prelude

Selected Music

Welcome and Greeting

Pastor

Announcements

Opening Hymn

“If Your Beloved Son, O God”

LSB 568

(stand)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

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

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 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 118:22-24

P The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

**C This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

P This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**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 - shiped 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.

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(sit)

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

¹Let me sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

²He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
and he looked for it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

³And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard,
that I have not done in it?

When I looked for it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,

and briers and thorns shall grow up;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.
7For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
and he looked for justice,
but behold, bloodshed;
for righteousness,
but behold, an outcry!

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

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 21:33-46

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³³[Jesus said:] “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ ³⁹And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes,

what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:
“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

[P] This is the Gospel of the Lord.

[C] Praise to You, O Christ.

(sit)

Hymn of the Day

*“Serve the Lord with Gladness”
(to the tune of “Onward, Christian Soldiers”)*

“Serve the Lord with gladness!”
It is He alone
Who redeemed us sinners,
Guides us as His own
To enjoy the blessings
Of His love and grace,
Will at last in glory
Meet us face to face.

Refrain:
Onward, then, for Jesus!
Let this be our aim:
“Serve the Lord with gladness!”
Glorify His name.

“Serve the Lord with gladness!”
He gave us command
To proclaim His Gospel
Now in every land
So that fellow sinners

May, like us, be blest.
Leading them to Jesus,
We can serve Him best.

Refrain

“Serve the Lord with gladness!”
There’s no greater joy
Than to serve the Master,
Work in His employ.
As we build His kingdom
Angels, too, rejoice
Over every sinner
Brought to hear His voice.

Refrain

Sermon *Why do bad things happen to good people?* Matthew 21:33-46

(stand)

Nicene Creed

**☩ 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, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new 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



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him.

Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

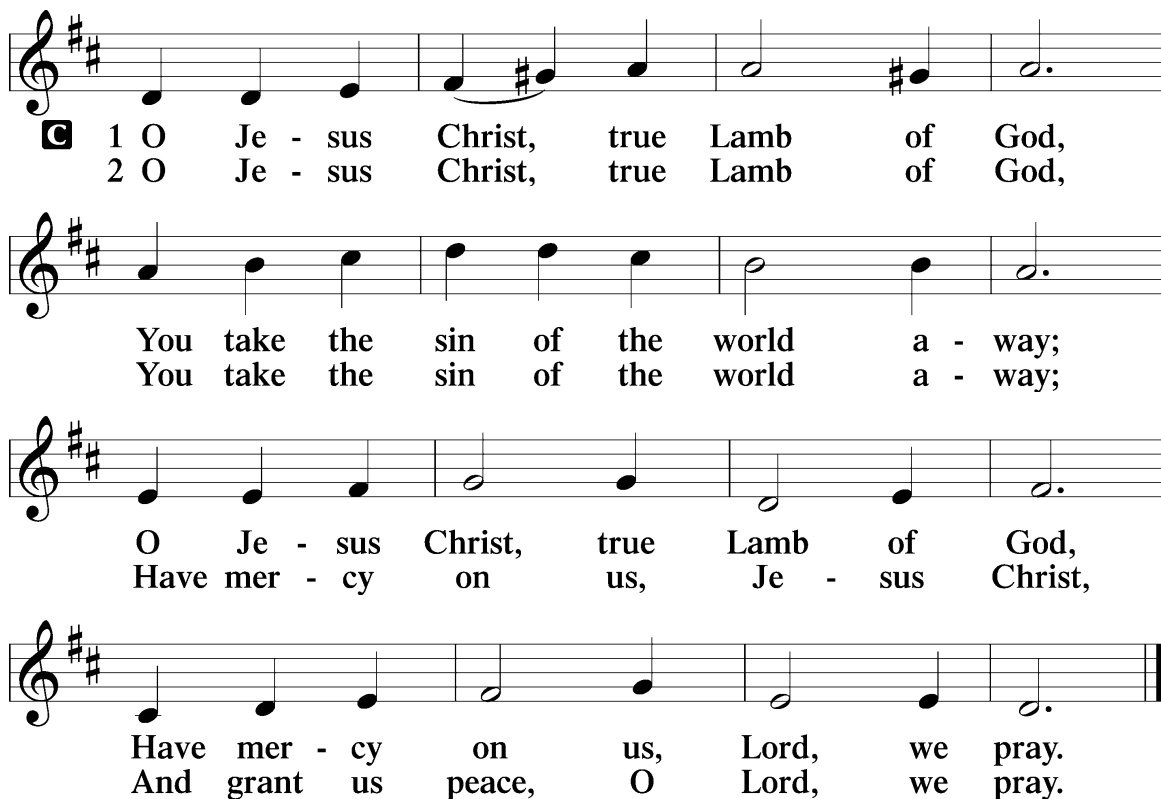
John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



C 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

*“Christ Is Our Cornerstone”
“My Song Is Love Unknown”*

LSB 912
LSB 430

(stand)

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

1 O Lord, now let to 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 Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

C Amen.

(sit)

Closing Hymn *“Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service”*

LSB 848

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 21:33-46

Why do bad things happen to good people?

1. An understanding of Original Sin and Vicarious Atonement can help _____ the _____ of _____.
2. Original Sin describes this shared inheritance: we are _____ into a _____ human condition rather than beginning life spiritually and morally _____.
3. Just as the _____ of the guilty can _____ the innocent so the sufferings and virtue of the innocent can help _____ the guilty.
4. Jesus was literally our _____, and his suffering _____ his whole _____.
5. _____'s patience for _____ will _____ out, clearly indicated in the Parable of the Wicked Tenants.
6. _____ in Jesus' atoning sacrifice is the only _____ to the real problem of _____.

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 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).



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.



Epiphany Lutheran Church Sunday School Challenge: Join us at 9am for *Sustaining Connections: Living Life in Community*. We'll save a seat for you—come and join the conversation!

After we complete this Sunday school series, we'll gather for a **Reformation/Oktoberfest Rally Sunday on October 25!** There will be no regular Sunday school that morning. After our 10:30am worship service, we'll gather for food, fellowship, and fun—BBQ and potluck (sign-up sheet in the kitchen area), quality time together, and maybe some cornhole, horseshoes, or other activities. If you have any questions, requests, or would like to help put this special day together, please contact Fred or Carita Botha.

Wednesday 6:30pm video study at Three Oaks - Join us this week for the 5th session of *Tame Your Thoughts*, a video study led by Max Lucado.

Want to carry Sunday's message with you into the week? ***Seeing the Light*** is a weekly self-study and discussion guide designed to help you dig a little deeper into the Scripture and sermon, reflect on what God's Word means for your daily life, and put your faith into practice. Pick up a copy as you come through the door each Sunday for yourself, to use with your family, or share with a friend. Don't just hear the Word on Sunday—keep growing in it all week long!

A reminder that we have an **Online Epiphany Church Directory**. Go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and follow the prompts under “Sign In” to “Create a login now.” Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in. There’s also a free mobile app available—simply search for “Instant Church Directory” to get the download. You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app. If you need help or have questions, contact Tom Rosser.

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.

The Lutheran Witness Subscription: Our congregation pays for each member household to receive a subscription to *The Lutheran Witness*, the monthly magazine of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, plus the *Texas Messenger* (monthly Texas District insert). Current subscriptions will be renewed next month for 2027. Each subscription costs \$32.00; if you would like to pay for your household’s subscription or aren’t a member and would like to purchase a subscription, please contact Margie Clifton (margie.clifton@epiphanybastrop.org) no later than Sunday, October 25.

THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:

Sunday, October 4th – LWML Sunday

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

Tuesday, October 6th

- 7:00pm – Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 7th

- 6:30pm – Bible Study: *Tame Your Thoughts*

Sunday, October 11th

- 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. James and Angela Sharp and their children, Elias, Ambrose, Callida, and Magdalyn – missionaries in Puerto Rico
- Francis Eschberger, Elaine Ottinger, Gert Schriener, and all the residents at Argent Court Assisted Living in Bastrop
- Sandy Sneck as well as Family and Friends of Carl Sneck
- Dave Layland
- Submission of Lasko Grant
- Lisa Clontz
- Terri Rosser’s Mom
- The Shoemate Family

Answers to Sermon Notes:

1. An understanding of Original Sin and Vicarious Atonement can help **explain** the **problem of evil**.
2. Original Sin describes this shared inheritance; we are **born** into a **fallen** human condition rather than beginning life spiritually and morally **untouched**.
3. Just as the **sins** of the guilty can **harm** the innocent so the sufferings and virtue of the innocent can help **redeem** the guilty.
4. Jesus was literally our **brother**, and his suffering **saved** his whole **family**.
5. **God**’s patience for **evil** will **run** out, clearly indicated in the Parable of the Wicked Tenants.
6. **Faith** in Jesus’ atoning sacrifice is the only **answer** to the real problem of **evil**.



FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL OF CENTRAL TEXAS

October 2026 Newsletter | flhstx.org | 979-242-2889



Oktoberfest Meal Tickets & Auction Items

Meal tickets are available! The meal includes schnitzel, noodles, green beans, potato salad, kraut, bread, and coffee cake. Plated meals will be available on Saturday, October 24th from 11am to 1pm at the Holy Cross Warda Picnic Grounds for dine-in or carry-out. Tickets are \$15 each and available pre-sale only! Talk to a FLHS student, staff, board member, or delegate today! For silent and live auction donations, please get your item/s to Mrs. Phillips in the office, (979) 242-2889 or PhillipsL@FLHSTX.org.

Faith at the Movies

Starting last month, you can see us at the movies both in Bastrop and Brenham. Get to your theater a little early to watch our ad playing before every movie in both locations!

Making Radio Waves

Faith is also on the air! 30-second radio spots run daily on local stations KTIM, 89.1 FM, KNRG, 92.3 FM, and KBUK, 104.9 FM. Listen for "The Voice of FLHS" heralding 2026 Oktoberfest!

Follow Us On Facebook!

Keep up with all the exciting things happening here at FLHS. By following our Facebook page and sharing with friends, you'll be in the know and help Faith grow!

<https://www.facebook.com/faithlhscentraltx>

Amazon Wish List

FLHS has an Amazon wish list of regularly needed materials. 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!





The Inheritance That Defines Us

In the First Commandment, God warns that He “visits the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation” of those who hate Him (Exodus 20:5; see also Deuteronomy 5:9).

We sometimes hear those words only as a statement about spiritual guilt. But there is also a very practical truth here: sin has consequences that can echo through generations.

In the ancient world, three or four generations often lived together in the same household. A great-grandfather’s anger, dishonesty, violence, drunkenness, or rejection of God did not remain neatly confined to his own life. His children learned from him. His grandchildren lived with the consequences. His great-grandchildren could inherit patterns of behavior that had begun decades earlier.

The same thing happens today. A father who was abused as a child may find it harder not to repeat what was done to him. A child raised amid uncontrolled anger may carry that anger into adulthood. Sin teaches habits, wounds relationships, and creates patterns that can be terribly difficult to break.

Here we need to distinguish inherited sin from inherited consequences and personal guilt. Scripture teaches that all people inherit original sin—our fallen condition—from Adam (Romans 5:12; Psalm 51:5). But that does not mean that a child is personally guilty before God for a particular sin committed by his father or grandfather. God says through Ezekiel, “The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father” (Ezekiel 18:20). We do not inherit our ancestors’ individual acts of guilt, but we certainly can inherit their consequences. A parent’s sinful choices can shape a child’s home, habits, fears, relationships, and understanding of the world. The child may suffer because of the parent’s sin without being guilty of committing that sin himself.

And that is where the Gospel speaks a better word. Your past does not have the final word over you. Christ does. In Holy Baptism, God joins us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. As St. Paul writes, “We were buried therefore with him by

baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead ... we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4). Baptism does not erase every earthly consequence of sin, but it gives something far greater: forgiveness, Christ's righteousness, and a new life in Him. The Christian is not condemned to repeat the sins of those who came before.

That means we can look honestly at our own families without either excusing sin or being imprisoned by it. Perhaps there are patterns of anger, bitterness, addiction, neglect, or broken relationships that have been handed down for years. We do not have to say, "That's just the way my family is, so that's the way I will be." Instead, we confess our own sins, forgive as Christ has forgiven us, seek forgiveness from those we have hurt, and ask God to help us live differently in our vocations as spouses, parents, grandparents, children, and neighbors. By God's grace, what was handed down to us does not have to be handed on by us.

God's own words in the Commandment point us finally toward His mercy. He visits iniquity to the third and fourth generation, but shows steadfast love "to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments" (Exodus 20:6). Sin may leave its mark from one generation to another. But in Christ, the inheritance that defines us is not the sin handed down to us—it is the grace given to us.



Lutheran Women *in Mission*

Sunday

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has affirmed each woman's identity as a child of God and her relationship with Jesus Christ. As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.