

OCTOBER 2026

THE LIGHT

A NEWSLETTER OF EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BASTROP, TEXAS



From the Pastor's Desk

Of Spooks and Spirits

Fall is the season for spooks, spirits, and cemeteries as Halloween and Día de Muertos approach. While I'm not necessarily a fan of Halloween (because of the commercialization and inconvenience, mostly), and I respect another culture's annual commemoration of the dearly departed, I figure this is the perfect time to address the supernatural—many folks find answers to the question “Are there such things as ghosts?” in church, but so many others get their theology from the media.

A few years ago, I happened across an episode of “The Demon Files” on tv. This ghost-busting ex-NYC police officer was shouting obscenities into the air (meant for an evil spirit or demon or spook or something) while brandishing a crucifix, all in the name of Jesus Christ. Oh yeah, and it was the middle of the night, naturally. At first I was mildly amused, then I began to think about the people that buy into this Exorcist syndrome (yes, upper-case E from the very good 1971 film that briefly made movie-goers Roman Catholic and afraid of the dark).

Evil really does exist and masks itself in the vanity, conceit, self-centeredness, and violent behavior we subject ourselves to daily in stark opposition to the pure goodness of God, and the only defense against a foe that hates his Creator and considers Man an intellectual, emotional, psychological (especially!), and spiritual weakling is a sincere repentance and faith in God's sacrifice of Christ for our sins. Holy water, invocations in Latin, profanity, and a crucifix wielded like a baseball bat are the symptoms of good intentions turned into desperation. We mortals are so, so vain. It almost cracks me up to think of this macho ex-cop trying to pick a fight with a force that could kill him as soon as look at him...but won't. Man is more valuable to Satan alive than dead. The much scarier devil is in the details, as they say—in the details of Scripture. Temptation. Why would Satan need all the pyrotechnics and showmanship to lure the unsuspecting away from God? No one understands the proverb “pride goes before a fall” (more specifically Proverbs 16:18) more than one whose own pride brought him down.

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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

Pastor's Note Continued

There's this other guy who shows up on some paranormal investigation tv shows in priestly garb with a censer, cross, and book of incantations, but few credentials, yet the folks infested with demons and evil spirits sigh with relief when he shows up on their doorstep like some sort of spiritual Orkin guy. And, sadly, these types of shockumentaries are such a poor source of theology for the unchurched.

Movies like "The Exorcist" and "The Conjuring" keep the unchurched, unfaithful, and uninformed in the dark, where levitating, pea-green-soup-barfing possessed teenage girls with animal eyes give even the most devout of Roman Catholic priests more than they bargained for. (However, both films are based on real events; "The Exorcist" has its roots in a Lutheran family's issues with their teenaged son's erratic behavior in the late 1940s and the "The Conjuring" chronicles the notoriety of 1970s-era husband-and-wife demonologists Ed and Lorraine Warren, he also an ex-cop, she a self-proclaimed medium).

The Bible supports the existence of spirits, to be sure. That they are wandering souls of humans is a fallacy; Martin Luther once said, "Wherever we go, wherever we stand, we are between angels and demons." And the latter are to be handled with God's Word and faith. The simple way to get rid of spooks is by changing the channel or, without meaning to sound un-American, not answering the door on Halloween. No need for a priest.

Pastor E.B.

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Epiphany has a podcast! It is available on popular podcast apps, or at peacebewithyou.podbean.com



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

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Epiphany Lutheran Church



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Yay God!

BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

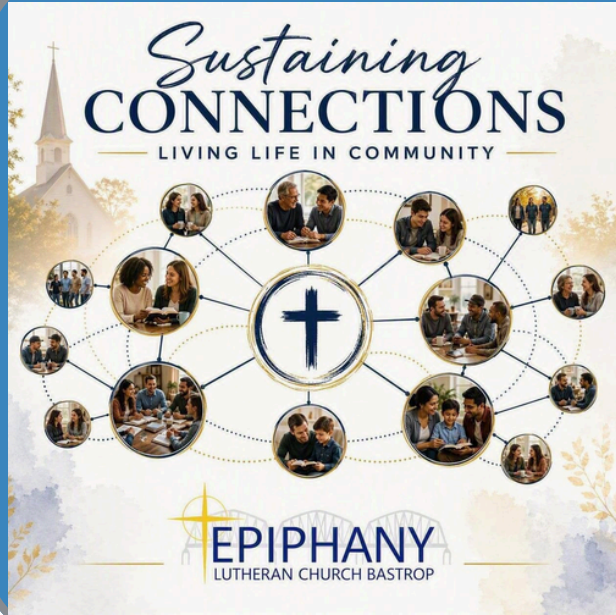


New Members: Walter & Jean

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Kelli Davis	September 6	Deebo & Norma Kunze
EJ Clontz-Kuntze	September 8	September 4
Deana G-Hanson.	September 16	Joe & Kelli Davis
James Clifton	September 17	November 11
Carita Botha	September 22	E.B. & Carole Holschuh
Glenn Schmidt	October 1	November 18
Alison Parker	October 6	Glenn & Stacey Schmidt
Harlan Robb	October 6	December 11
Ethan Clontz-Kuntze	October 16	Dave & Deb Layland
Jeremy Clifton	November 6	December 22
Clayton Wolf	November 12	Logan & Adalynn Shoemate
E.B. Holschuh	November 25	December 27
Gert Schriener	December 14	Ryan & Lindsay Robb
Adalynn Shoemate	December 19	December 29

COMMUNITY NEWS



Adult Sunday School Continuing Through October 17

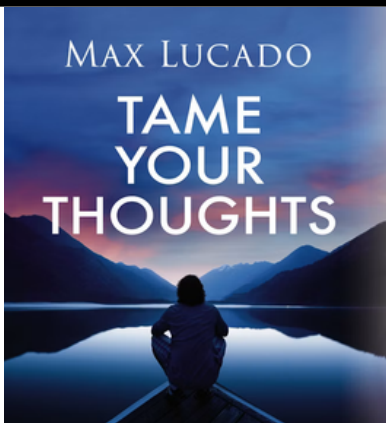
We are exploring what it means to be a "disciple-able" follower of Jesus. Discover how God uses His Word, His people, and His mission to shape us into the kind of church described in Acts—a church that lives life together and shares the hope of Christ with the world.

In the final sessions we will explore:

- What it means to be made in God's image
- Church beyond the four walls
- How we can put this into practice through discovery Bible studies and small groups



Let's put into practice what we have learned about living life in community. Join the Epiphany Family for food, fun, and fellowship. There will be no regular Sunday School. After our 10:30 worship service, we'll gather for BBQ and a potluck. Sign up to bring something to share. We'll enjoy yard games and other fellowship. Contact Fred or Carita Botha if you would like to help.



Wednesdays 6:30PM Continuing through October

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 for a 6-session video series from Max Lucado. No matter who you are or where you come from, progress is possible...



COMMUNITY NEWS



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!

Meet students from FLHS and learn more about the mission of FLHS on Sunday, November 15, at Epiphany.

COMMUNITY NEWS



CPR Class @ Epiphany

Saturday, November 14, 9:00AM

Our leadership, council, and Sunday School teachers will be trained in CPR. All church members are invited to learn CPR and how to use our new AED. This is not a certification class but will direct us in the basics should an emergency arise.

Middle School Sunday School (6th to 8th Grade)



We are currently attending the Sustaining Connections Sunday School Class with the Adults. We will be returning to the video series the Adult Sunday School just finished up and 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.



Bastrop Emergency Food Pantry Drive

Plan to participate in our 3rd Annual Food Drive benefiting the Bastrop Emergency Food Pantry. We will be collecting non-perishable food the first three Sundays of November - the 1st, 8th, and 15th



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

CEF Sunday:
November 15



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 ★★★★★

OKTOBERFEST

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

 **GERMAN PLATED MEAL - SERVING 11 AM - 1 PM**
\$15/PLATE (PRE-ORDER AT 979-242-2889 BY 10/15)

Special LIVE Performance 
PIVO & POLKA BAND
WITH KELSEY J. LIEN
11:30 AM TO 3:30 PM



42 AND CORNHOLE TOURNAMENTS
HOME BREW COMPETITIONS

CONCESSIONS & BEER STAND 

 **FREE KIDS' GAMES & HAYRIDES**
1:30PM-3:30PM

 **FUN CONTESTS ALL AFTERNOON**
INCLUDING BEST GERMAN DRESSED

SILENT AUCTION - CLOSING AT 3:30 PM
LIVE AUCTION - STARTS AT 4:00 PM

HOLY CROSS WARDA PICNIC GROUNDS
VISIT WWW.FLHSTX.ORG FOR MORE INFO

Wendish Easter Egg Decorating Class

October 17th, 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.

Use the link to reserve your spot! Payment is required at the time of registration to secure your place.

If you have any questions, contact us at museum@texaswends.org

Advent at Epiphany
Advent is upon us. Look for announcements of midweek gatherings to be announced soon for the three Wednesdays of Advent, December 2, 9, and 16.

Epiphany purchases subscriptions of *The Lutheran Witness* for every member family at a cost of \$32.00 a year. If you would like to no longer receive this publication, pay for your own subscription, or are a non-member who would like to purchase a subscription, talk to Margie C. by October 25.



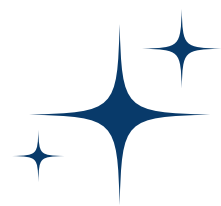

Instant Church Directory™

Epiphany has an online directory. Use the Instant Church Directory app or create a login at members.InstantChurchDirectory.com



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. **In these final lessons of the three-year study,** we will continue exploring the New Testament and Jesus sending the church.

October 4 (Lesson 10) Students will study "Preaching and Perils" this week. After an extended stay in Greece, Paul sets off on another journey, finally arriving in Troas. There, as he preaches late into the night, a young man named Eutychus falls asleep on a window ledge and tumbles three floors to his death. Paul rushes to his side and restores Eutychus to life. Later, in his second letter to the Church at Corinth, Paul recounts in detail the numerous hardships he endured in his ministry.

October 11 (Lesson 11) Today students will study "Paul's Prison Protection." When Paul's nephew overhears a plot by the Jews to assassinate Paul, he tells Paul, who tells his prison guards. They take the young man to the Roman tribune, who takes action to protect Paul from the plot. Now guarded by at least 470 soldiers, spearmen, and horsemen, Paul is safely moved to Caesarea to await a hearing before Governor Felix.

October 18 (Lesson 12) The Bible lesson for this week is "All Overboard." After appealing his right as a Roman citizen, Paul sets sail for Rome under the guard of Julius, a centurion. They try to sail along the coast of Crete, but a fierce storm batters the ship for two weeks, pushing them out to sea. An angel tells Paul the ship will be lost but all aboard will survive. Paul encourages everyone to take heart and have some food. Then the crew cuts loose the anchors, and the ship heads toward a beach, where it strikes a reef. All 276 who were aboard arrive safely ashore.

October 25 (No Sunday School - Oktoberfest/Reformation Celebration)

November 1 (Lesson 13) "To a New Generation" is the title of this week's Bible lesson. Paul writes this instructive letter to his spiritual son, Timothy. As the pastor of the Church in Ephesus, young Timothy relies on Paul's experience and advice. Paul's words to Timothy encourage all believers in Christ: "The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost" (1 Timothy 1:15).

November 8 (Lesson 14) This week, we will study "The Last Call." Jesus describes His second coming, when the Father will separate believers and unbelievers. He tells how the faithful, by faith, fulfill God's will, and how the unfaithful will find themselves banished to eternal punishment. John records the words of the risen and glorified Christ in the last chapter of his revelation. There, Christ promises once again to return and gather all believers to Himself: "Surely I am coming soon" (Revelation 22:20).



Along with our Bible study each week, we practice saying the Ten Commandments and singing the Books of the Bible together.



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
- Clayton
- Fritz
- Rev. Timothy Dinger
- Lauren
- Dave Layland
- Baby Lex
- Van Clifton
- Deebo and Norma
- Our Argent Court friends - Fay, Francis, Jim, Anita, Elaine, Gert, Ranita, Sally
- Carl Guetersloh
- Sandy Sneck and other friends and family of Carl Sneck
- Our Building Committee and the Lasko Grant submission
- Terri's mom, Joan
- The Shoemate Family

Our Lutheran Confessions: Nicene Creed

The Nicene Creed is the 2nd of three ecumenical creeds contained in the first of 10 documents contained in the Book of Concord. Most Lutherans know the Nicene Creed by heart—or at least well enough that the words come naturally when we stand together in worship. But why do we confess this particular creed, and what are we actually saying?

The Nicene Creed grew out of a controversy in the early Christian Church. In the 4th century, a priest named Arius taught that Jesus Christ was not truly God in the same sense as the Father. According to Arius, the Son was the greatest of God's creatures, but He was still a creature. This teaching struck at the heart of the Christian faith. If Jesus is not truly God, can he really save us from sin, death, and the devil?

Church leaders gathered at Nicaea in 325 AD to address the controversy. They confessed what Scripture teaches: Jesus Christ is "God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made." The Son is "of one substance with the Father." The Greek word behind that phrase is *homoousios*, meaning "of the same substance." Jesus is not a lesser god or a created being. He is eternally God, together with the Father.

The creed was expanded at Constantinople in 381, particularly in its confession concerning the Holy Spirit. That gives us essentially the form Christians still confess today.

The Nicene Creed is organized around the Holy Trinity. We confess belief in "one God, the Father Almighty," the Creator of everything that exists. We then confess Jesus Christ, God's only-begotten Son, who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven. Notice how much of the creed concerns Jesus. He became incarnate, was made man, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, died, was buried, rose on the third day, ascended into heaven, and will come again in glory.

These are not abstract theological ideas. They are the saving acts of God in human history. The eternal Son of God became man for us. He was crucified for us. He rose from the dead for us.

Then we confess the Holy Spirit, "the Lord and giver of life," who proceeds from the Father and the Son and who is worshiped and glorified together with them. The Spirit is not merely a force or influence. He is truly God. Through the Word and Sacraments, the Holy Spirit creates and sustains faith in Christ.

Finally, we confess "one holy Christian and apostolic Church," one Baptism for the remission of sins, the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. The creed therefore takes us from creation all the way to the resurrection and eternal life.

Lutherans do not confess the Nicene Creed because we believe creeds replace the Bible. Just the opposite: we confess it because it faithfully summarizes what Scripture teaches. The creed does not begin, "I understand," or even, "I feel." It begins, "I believe."

And when we confess it together, we are saying something larger than any one congregation or generation. We join Christians across centuries and around the world in confessing the one God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and the one Savior, Jesus Christ, who "for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven."

That ancient confession remains our confession today.

[This is the 3rd of 14 articles. The Book of Concord is accessible online at bookofconcord.org.]