St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
Baptism of Our Lord
January 13, 2019

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The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The Baptism of Our Lord cannot help but recall our own and all baptismal blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as daughters and sons, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of the beloved Son of God in bread and wine.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND GOOD NEWS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who creates us and forms us, who redeems us and calls us, who unites us and sends us.

Amen.

Gathered in God’s presence, let us confess our sin.

The assembly shall kneel or stand, as they are able.

Mighty and loving God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We seek our own way.
We divide the body of Christ.
In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us.
Let the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts, and everything that we do be filled with faith, hope, and love.

Amen.

Hear the voice of Jesus:
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives."
In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you that your sins are forgiven and you are released.
The joy of the Lord is your strength, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

(ELW p. 641) All Are Welcome
GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE

1 Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
2 Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
3 Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart.

We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.
Renew us with your saving pow’r; create in us new hearts!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

1 Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
2 Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;

Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav’n above;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:

we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God’s right hand.
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father’s splendor bright.

Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!
PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The assembly is seated

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel’s exile in Babylon, God promises to bring them home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

1 But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:
   Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
   I have called you by name, you are mine.
2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
   and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
   when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.
3 For I am the Lord your God,
   the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
   I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
4 Because you are precious in my sight,
   and honored, and I love you,
   I give people in return for you,
   nations in exchange for your life.
5 Do not fear, for I am with you;
   I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;
6 I will say to the north, “Give them up,”
   and to the south, “Do not withhold;
   bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—
   everyone who is called by my name,
   whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God
RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 29

R: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,
   ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God’s name;
   worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
   the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
   the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor. R
5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
6 the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
   and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
7 The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes.
8 The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
   the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. R
9 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
   And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, “Glory!”
10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;
   the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.
11 O Lord, give strength to your people; give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace. R

SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit 16 (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). 17 Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.
The assembly stands.
THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Glory to You, O, Lord.

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God’s beloved Son.

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW p. 423) Shall We Gather at the River

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United as one body in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *The assembly shall kneel, as they are able*

We pray for the church. Pour out your Spirit upon us and enliven us for mission. Draw us together in love that we may be one. Lead us in the way of your beloved Son. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the earth. Sustain oceans and seas, rivers and lakes, marshes and wetlands. Watch over dormant plants and hibernating animals as they rest in your care. Renew your creation and protect all creatures from harm. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the nations. Inspire leaders to work for the common good. Grant courage to those who put themselves at risk to protect others. Turn us away from violence and teach us to live in peace. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those in need. Protect children and vulnerable adults who depend on others to provide for their daily care. Uphold those who struggle with depression. Console the grieving and heal the sick, especially for Mitch, Michelle, Laquita, Mary Louise, Helen, Francis, Lynda, Leroy, John, and Roxanna, as well as those that we name out loud or in our hearts... Give us hope in the promise of new life where pain and suffering will be no more. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For this assembly. Bless the newly baptized. Renew your children in the covenant of baptism. Empower us by your loving Spirit to serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

As we sow Seeds of Hope, we pray for St. John Lutheran in Westhoff. Guide them to new opportunities and abilities to draw younger people into the congregation. We pray also for St. Peter’s in Elgin that they may have vision, direction, and that God would use them as an instrument of grace in their community. We pray for St. Paul’s – Karnes City and St. Paul’s – Nordheim as the congregations continue discussions of the St. Paul’s Squared opportunity. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

With all churches in the Southwestern Texas Synod we pray for each other and also for ELCA member congregations such as those in the Grand Canyon Synod, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Quihi, and Augsburg College. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers and fill us with the radiance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. *And also with you.*
Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING HYMN (ELW p. 512) Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.


GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

A - men, a - men, a - men.
LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table.
Feast on God’s abundant life for you.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a-way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a-way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a-way;

you suffered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
et-er-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, O God, that you have fed us at your banqueting table with bread and wine beyond compare, the very life of Christ for us. Send your Spirit with us now, that we may set the captive free, use your gifts to build one another up, and in everything reflect your glory revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

SENDING SONG (ELW p. 543) Go, My Children, with My Blessing

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is your light.
Thanks be to God.

DOXOLOGY (ELW p. 884) Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

For Prayerful Consideration

Ill, Injured or Otherwise Struggling: Sadat Abrihim, David Anaba, Sharon Baumann, Mitch Dorn, Shane Edens, Michelle Easton, Norma Foreman, Laquita Gibbens, Helen Grimm, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Andy James, Raymond Jenkins, Mary Louise Jonas, Steve Kelly, Evalina, Francis Kempe, Lynda Lathrop, Ella Manka, Khloe Martinez, Moma Ndeh, the Ndeh family, Charles Pierce, Leroy Polderick, Carly Rosenboon, John Tackitt, Roxanna Tom, Yvonne Watkins, Kyle Worthy, Cody Zaiontz, and Norma Zamzow

For those in the military: Nick Adams, Anthony Alvarez, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Jon Wayne Schulz, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva

Birthdays & Anniversary: Keith Rippstein (Jan. 14), Lillie Jonas, Joni Huwe (Jan. 15), Patsy Yanta (Jan 20), Allen & Orlis Jonas (Jan. 19)
Welcome!

We have all come to St. Paul’s by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul’s. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us. **If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance**, please signal an usher.

Coming Events

Let’s join together and PARTICIPATE

**Sunday, January 20, 2019 will be the Annual Meeting** immediately following the worship service. All members of the congregation are encouraged to attend. Agenda items and other matters of business will be discussed.

Anyone that would like to place their name on the ballot for council member contact a council member.

**For those that would like for the church to record offerings to St. Paul’s**, the Council will offer that service beginning January 2019. Please contact a member of council for more information.

**Tuesday, January 22, St. Paul’s WELCA will sponsor the Senior Citizen Activity Day** at the Karnes City Columbus Club beginning at 12:00. If you would like to donate bingo prizes (value $1.00 - $5.00), a monetary donation or homemade cookies, please contact Alva Jonas.
Getting to Know a Congregation Within Southwestern Texas Synod

St. Peter Lutheran Church (Ander), Goliad

Does your congregation incorporate any special types of traditions in your worship services, if so, what?
3rd Sunday of each month is contemporary worship or “noisy Sunday” since all of the children are given musical instruments to play with the piano music!

Where or how does your church focus its outreach/service efforts?
* Every October we do an Oktoberfest, and all funds raised go towards outreach - alternating years between Cross Trails and Habitat for Humanity.
* We have voted to increase our mission giving by including benevolences to ELCA Fund for Leaders and Mission Development within our synod.
* We support the Golden Crescent Food Pantry, the Goliad Outreach Center, Goliad Schools and the Goliad Sheriff’s Silver Santa with donations of material goods
* Whenever there is a need within the community we give from our local benevolences
* In 2018 we sent a generous offering to Paradise Lutheran Church in the wake of the California wildfires.

What does Faith Formation look like in your congregation?
* A very active Sunday School and Vacation Bible School
* The congregation pays 75% of camp costs for anyone who wants to go
* Regular youth activities for ages 2-18, including service projects along with the “fun stuff”
* Weekly children’s messages with lively participation from the children
* For adults there is weekly Bible Study in addition to Sunday School, as well as WELCA Bible studies and activities
* A Young Adult discussion group meets monthly, which focuses on raising Christian families

Does your congregation host any unique annual events or conferences?
Our Oktoberfest features a sausage meal, silent and live auctions and live music - every penny raised goes out of the congregation to either Cross Trails or Habitat for Humanity

Are there any ministry teams within your church whose ministries you’d like to highlight?

Does your congregation have a relationship with any other ELCA or Ecumenical Churches? If so, please describe.
Our Outreach and Stewardship teams work together to provide opportunities for outreach in amazing and generous ways (see above)!
How can we be the Church in the world?  How can our congregations better “make disciples”?  Our God is calling us to love and serve all our diverse neighbors. It is important to engage our neighbors within our various communities.  We are called to love one another, pray for one another, forgive one another, encourage one another, and put up with one another.  Our work extends to persons within our congregations, but also to our communities and beyond.

Rural, suburban and urban congregations experience struggles to be sustainable and vital communities of faith.  But our God who creates something out of nothing and who brings life from death is making all things new, and empowers our work together as the Church. We must be able to adapt to changing circumstances; develop more effective strategies in ministering to and connecting with our communities; increase the vitality and sustainability of congregations in rural, small town and metropolitan contexts; and identify ways we can cooperate and collaborate in doing Christ’s work.

Equipping the Saints with its many workshops provides important insights and Biblically-based practical tools to equip persons to do congregation and community ministry and mission.  Workshop offerings also include opportunities for personal and spiritual growth, table fellowship (catered meal) with Christians of area congregations, child care for young children of attendees, and the experience of worship as the body of Christ.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2 for all day event!  Contact information – Pr. Herb Beyer, ETS Coordinator 361-798-0155 or E-mail: beyerfam@hughes.net or Christ the Victor office 361-575-4363 or E-mail: christthevictor@suddenlinkmail.com or local ELCA churches for registration materials and information.  All are welcome to attend.  Register early!