St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
6th Sunday after Epiphany
February 17, 2019

Sergio Rodriguez, Vicar
Mike Tessman, Worship Assistant
Rita Jordan, Organist
Sandra Dickens, Lay Reader

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Gathering

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

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed ares” and the “woe tos” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him and the power to heal us all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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. 696) Jesus Calls Us; o’er the Tumult

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 merc-y on us, Lord, and hear our sol-emn prayer.
2 Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a-way our sin.
3 Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de-part.

We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de-spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be-gin.
Re-new us with your sav-ing pow’r; cre ate in us new hearts!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for-ev-er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a-lone, to you we call;

Might-y God of all cre-a-tion, Fa-ther of sur-pass-ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav-ior, you have come from heav’n a-bove;
Ho-ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:

we ex-alt you, we a-dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God’s right hand.
Je-sus Christ, with God the Spir-it, in the Fa-ther’s splen-dor bright.

SAINTS and an-gels be with you. Upon earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re-store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in-her-it, glo-ry be to God on high!
Let us pray. Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Word

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-10

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings (17:5-11) that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

5 Thus says the Lord:
   Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
      and make mere flesh their strength,
      whose hearts turn away from the Lord.
6 They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
    and shall not see when relief comes.
   They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
    in an uninhabited salt land.
7 Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
   whose trust is the Lord.
8 They shall be like a tree planted by water,
    sending out its roots by the stream.
   It shall not fear when heat comes,
    and its leaves shall stay green;
   in the year of drought it is not anxious,
    and it does not cease to bear fruit.
9 The heart is devious above all else;
   it is perverse—
      who can understand it?
10 I the Lord test the mind
    and search the heart,
   to give to all according to their ways,
    according to the fruit of their doings.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.
RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 1

R: They are like trees planted by streams of water.

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful.
2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night. R
3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
   everything they do shall prosper.
4 It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed. R

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; 14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. 17 If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. 19 If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. 20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.
The assembly stands.
After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

17 Jesus came down with the twelve and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. 18 They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. 19 And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

20 Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

21 Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

22 Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

24 But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

25 Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

26 Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW p. 728) Blest Are They

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
his suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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. Raise up faithful leaders to proclaim the gospel. Guide us in the ways of love. Empower us in ministry and service. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the earth. Bless deserts and canyons, farmlands and vineyards. Bring sufficient rainfall to lands parched by drought, and restore places scorched by wildfire. Protect fragile environments from harm. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the nations. Grant wisdom to our elected leaders for the sake of the common good. Give courage to those who suffer persecution. Give patience and perseverance to those who work to bring an end to injustice. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those in need. For those who do not have enough food; for those who lack money; for those who are estranged from their families; for those who worry about many things. Comfort those who mourn. Heal and strengthen those who are sick, especially for Mitch, Laquita, Mary Louise, Francis, Lynda, Leroy, John, Dallas, and Roxanna, as well as those that we name out loud or in our hearts... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For this assembly. For newcomers, visitors, longtime members, and those who are absent from us today. Root us deeply in your word and increase our faith. 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 begin 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 Northeastern Minnesota Synod, Christ Lutheran Church in Elm Creek, and Carthage College. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died and now rest in your presence. Sustain us in hope of the resurrection and bring us into the joy of unending life in you. 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. 692) We Are an Offering

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

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
you have brought us this far along the way.  
In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,  
but guided us into the path of love and light.  
In every age you sent prophets  
to make known your loving will for all humanity.  
The cry of the poor has become your own cry;  
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.  
In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant
to preach good news to the afflicted,
to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

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

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when Jesus shall return
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen

Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen

Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
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.
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. 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. 546) To Be Your Presence

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

DISMISSAL

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

For Prayerful Consideration

Ill, Injured or Otherwise Struggling: Sharon Baumann, Mitch Dorn, Shane Edens, Norma Foreman, Laquita Gibbens, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Raymond Jenkins, Mary Louise Jonas, Steve Kelly, Evalina, Francis Kempe, Lynda Lathrop, Ella Manka, Khloe Martinez, John Moczygemba, Charles Pierce, Leroy Polderick, Carly Rosenboon, John Tackitt, Dallas Thompson, 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: Mary M’Lyn Feuquay (2/18), Allen Jonas (2/25), Kimberly Chevalier (2/27)
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

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**Potluck Immediately after the Worship Service**

Celebrate Pastor Dorn’s amazing work at St. Paul’s and the beginning of Vicar Rodriguez' work at St. Paul's!

A free will offering will be taken for Pastor Dorn’s mortuary project.

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**SYNOD ASSEMBLY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Due to a scheduling conflict, Mike & Dale are unable to attend. Synod Assembly will be May 31-June 2 at the Omni Hotel in Corpus. Registration and hotel costs will be paid by St. Paul’s. Contact Ronnie for more information.

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**Healthy Congregations**

DEVELOP. TRAIN. EDUCATE. CONSULT.

**Healthy Congregations 2 Workshop**

Date & Time: March 30th 9:00am-3:00pm

Christ Lutheran (Elm Creek)
3305 Church Road, Seguin, TX 78155

Register NOW

$20 per person if from Host church; $25 per person for all other participants

Deadline: March 24th

Includes: materials, presenter, lunch

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**Cross Trails Ministry**

Cross Trails Ministry is hiring for Summer 2019!

We are in need of all the following positions:

- CABIN LEADER, ASSISTANT PROGRAM DIRECTOR
- LEADERSHIP STAFF, HEAD LIFEGUARD, LIFEGUARD, ROPES COURSE STAFF, MEDIA COORDINATOR, WORSHIP/MUSIC COORDINATOR
- WOODCARVING INSTRUCTOR, POTTERY INSTRUCTOR
- ARTS AND CRAFTS, OUTDOOR RECREATION COORDINATOR, NURSE, MAINTENANCE, COOKS
- CAMP HAND, LYLE COORDINATOR, HORSE WRANGLER, DAY CAMP STAFF, ADVENTURE STAFF.
WHO WAS EVA LEO? (2 December 1901 in Diepholz – 10 April 1998 in Dubuque, Iowa) was a German Master Metal Sculptor, the youngest child of Johannes Dittrich and his wife, Elisabeth Borchers Dittrich. She had three brothers and six sisters.

**Education and Profession**

After finishing high school in Bremen and spending a year as an au pair in the household of her oldest sister, she enrolled in the University of the Arts Bremen to learn the art of China painting. Her parents lived nearby in Lesum, where her father was the regional bishop of the Evangelical (Lutheran) Church. After finishing her studies in Bremen, she completed an apprenticeship with Friedrich Harjes, a metal sculptor in Burgdam. She spent a few months studying art with Wilhelm Groß (de), a wood sculptor in Eden near Oranienburg.

In 1932 she completed her Master’s examination in Hildesheim and became the first female Master Metal Sculptor in Germany. Without financial assistance, she outfitted a workshop in Hildesheim and established herself as a freelance sculptor. She built her reputation filling commissions for churches and church architects such as Rudolf Jäger, creating baptismal fonts, Communion services, crucifixes, candlesticks, lamps, and reliefs depicting Biblical motifs.

In the summer of 1937, she met and befriended Paul Leo in an exhibit of religious art in the Neustädter Church in Hanover. They stayed in touch, exchanging letters and meeting from time to time. In November 1938, Leo was incarcerated in Buchenwald concentration camp because of his Jewish ancestry. He was released two months later with the requirement that he leave Germany within two months.

**Voluntary Emigration**

Eva Dittrich decided to resettle in the USA together with Paul Leo and left Germany on August 30, 1939 (one day before the war started) with two suitcases and a round trip ticket to Amsterdam, for a “weekend trip” so as not to arouse suspicion. They discovered that they would not be allowed to marry in Holland because of its status as a neutral country and the fact that their marriage would be illegal in Germany. As a refugee, Leo qualified for visas for himself and his daughter. Since Eva Dittrich was a non-Jewish German citizen, she was not in danger and not eligible for a visa. Together with Paul’s brother Ulrich Leo (de), his wife Helene, and their two sons, she traveled to Venezuela. In the summer of 1940, Paul Leo traveled to Venezuela and the two married in Caracas. On August 5, 1940, the family became US residents. Until 1943, Paul and Eva Leo lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1943 they moved to Texas where Paul ministered to congregations consisting of third and fourth generation German immigrants, first in Karnes City and later in Cave Creek and Crabapple. In 1950, the family moved to Dubuque, Iowa, where Paul became a professor of Greek and New Testament (along with Theological German) at Wartburg Theological Seminary.

When Paul Leo died suddenly in 1958, Eva Leo took over his Theological German students, reading Karl Barth and other theologians in the original German. She was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Theology by Wartburg Seminary for her contributions to the upcoming generation of theologians. In 1960 she resumed her work as a metal sculptor, first by creating her husband’s grave marker. From 1960 until her death in 1998, her art consisted of reliefs for doors, altars, processional crosses, grave markers, and wall decorations. Eva Leo has two biological children and a stepdaughter: Anne Leo Ellis (1931, children’s writer); Christopher Leo (1941, political scientist) and Monica Leo (1944, puppeteer).