THINGS TO DO:

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

- feed the hungry
- give drink to the thirsty
- give alms to the poor
- shelter the homeless
- visit the sick
- visit the imprisoned
- bury the dead

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

- instruct the ignorant
- counsel the doubtful
- admonish the sinner
- forgive injuries
- comfort the sorrowful
- bear wrongs patiently

Sergio Rodriguez, Vicar
Leah Jordan, Organist
Lillie Jonas, Pianist
Mary Maddox, Lay Reader

408 S. Davidson Street  | Karnes City, TX 78118
Office (830) 780-2251   Vicar Rodriguez ((956) 739-9190
www.StPaulsLutheranKC.org
www.facebook.com/StPaulsLutheranKarnesCity
Gathering

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

Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of the glory of God revealed in the Christ.

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. 588) There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy
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

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

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. O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The assembly is seated

Oremos. Oh Señor Jesús, haz de nosotros instrumentos de tu paz, que donde hay odio, podamos sembrar el amor, donde hay heridas, perdón, y donde hay desesperación, esperanza. Grant, Oh divino Maestro, para que podamos procurar consolar, entender y amar en tu nombre, para que vivas y Reines con el padre y el Espíritu Santo, un solo Dios, ahora y para siempre. Amén.

Word

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good, to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

3Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.
4Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’” And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God
RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

R: The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.

1 Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
2 For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.
3 Put your trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.
4 Take delight in the Lord, who shall give you your heart’s desire. R
5 Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord, and see what God will do.
6 The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.
7 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently.
   Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
8 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil. R
9 For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land.
10 In a little while the wicked shall be no more; even if you search out their place, they will not be there.
11 But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.
39 But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O Lord; you are their stronghold in time of trouble.
40 You, O Lord, will help them and rescue them; you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge. R

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

In the Apostles Creed, we speak of the “resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.” Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ’s perfect life into eternity.

35 But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” 36 Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. 38 But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.
42 So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. 47 The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.
50 What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.
The assembly stands.
Glory to You, O, Lord.

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even to enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

[Jesus said:] 27 But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 29 If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. 30 Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

32 If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

37 Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38 give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.


HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW p. 605) Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

SERMON
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 incarnated of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
    and became truly human.
  For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
  he 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. Fill us with a spirit of generosity and care. Lead us to forgive as we have been forgiven. Show us new ways to be helpful to others. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
For the earth. Grant seasonable weather for the planting and harvesting of crops. Protect farms, orchards, and gardens from damage. Bless those who till fields, those who care for livestock, and all who provide food. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the nations. For all researchers and leaders who work to resolve complex issues; for all who teach peace and reconciliation to communities in conflict; for those affected by earthquake, drought, or storms, and all who come to their aid. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those in need. For those who lack adequate food, shelter, or access to medical care; for those unable to find gainful employment. Heal the sick, especially Mitch, Laquita, Mary Louise, Francis, Lynda, Elfren, Leroy, John, Dallas, and Joyce, and comfort the grieving, especially the family of Barbara Kopplin, as well as those that we name out loud or in our hearts... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For this assembly. Inspire us to be good stewards of the resources you have entrusted to us. Teach us to give freely of ourselves and to offer our lives in service. 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 share 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 Southwestern Minnesota Synod, Christ the King Lutheran Church in Universal City, and Concordia College. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died, Barbara Kopplin. Even in the midst of death, give us faith to trust your promise of everlasting life. 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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
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 for 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.
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.
TABLE BLESSING

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. 708)    Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

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: Mitch Dorn, Shane Edens, Norma Foreman, Laquita Gibbens, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Raymond Jenkins, Mary Louise Jonas, Steve Kelly, Evalina, Francis Kempe, Lynda Lathrop, Khloe Martinez, Elfren Moczygemba, John Moczygemba, Leroy Polderick, Carly Rosenboon, John Tackitt, Dallas Thompson, Yvonne Watkins, Joyce Witte, 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: Jeff Jonas, Evie Swick (Mar 2), Cassidy Jonas (Mar 3), Philip Mika (Mar 8, Elizabeth Witte (Mar 9)
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

6-12th GRADE YOUTH!!!!
Sunday March 3, 2-4pm.
Trinity Lutheran Church
106 N. DeLeon, Victoria
361-573-4725

Grab your friends, grab your Pastor, Intern, Interim, the guy behind you in church, and head to Victoria. Let’s meet some new people and have some fun with our area Lutheran Churches.

*Games, Silliness, Fellowship, Fun, Devotion.*

Let’s make a habit of gathering together!

**Lent & Easter Worship Schedule**

Ash Wednesday, March 6 -- 7:30 p.m.

Weekly Lenten Worship will be each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 18 – 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 19 – 7:30 p.m.

Easter Celebration
Christian Education – 9:30 a.m.
Worship – 11:00 a.m.
“Perspectives on the Border” Immigration Webinars
March 7, 21, and 28

This “Perspectives on the Border” webinar series on immigration is a partnership project with Rev. Dr. Jay Alanis, the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest (LSPS), and the following ELCA synods: Grand Canyon, Gulf Coast, Pacifica, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Rocky Mountain, and Southwestern Texas.

There are three different sessions, usually at a minimum cost of $25 each per participant. We are offering all three for only $60 per person! Your synods are helping subsidize the cost of this invaluable training (valued at a significantly higher rate).

Session I: Living in Third Spaces (March 7, 3pm Central)
Session II: Borderland Perspectives on Diverse Worldviews (March 21, 3pm Central)
Session III: Theological Perspectives from the U.S. – Mexico Borderlands (March 28, 3pm Central)

Want more information? Please speak with Vicar Rodriguez or Dale Tessman

Healthy Congregations

Healthy Congregations 2 Workshop
Date & Time: March 30th
9:00am-3:00pm
Christ Lutheran (Elm Creek)
3305 Church Road, Seguin, TX
78155

$20 per person if from Host church;
$25 per person for all other participants
Deadline: March 24th
Includes: materials, presenter, lunch

Register Now.

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.

The Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy/Texas Impact invites you to participate in Courts & Ports: Faithful Witness on the Texas-Mexico Border. Courts & Ports is a partnership between the Interfaith Center and the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas. Participants observe proceedings in federal criminal court, and record their observations for use by ACLU and other attorneys; meet with faith and policy experts working on the border; spend time with individuals who have pending asylum cases; engage in contextualizing discussion with Texas Impact pastoral staff and other faith leaders; plan and participate in worship; and become part of an online “alumni” community.
SYNOD ASSEMBLY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 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.
Does your congregation incorporate any special types of traditions in your worship services, if so, what?
1. Singing the Lord's Prayer
2. Annual Polka Worship Service
3. Soup & Bowl of Caring during offering annually
4. God's Stories
5. Singing Happy Birthday to members
6. Extinguishing the candles/lights on Good Friday
7. Advent Wreath
8. Christmas decorations on tree
9. Easter Sunrise outside with release of butterflies
10. Palm Sunday outside with palm branches

Where or how does your church focus its outreach/service efforts?
1. Community Food Pantry
2. Spanish worship on Saturdays
3. Emily's meals - feeding the homeless twice a month
4. Garage Sale to raise funds for Sharing and Caring projects
5. Thrivent Action Teams - homeless care packages, purses for abused women, etc.
6. School Supplies to local colonies
7. Quilts for local school children
8. Gifts for Salvation Army at Christmas
9. Working with La Frontera Ministry on the border
10. Use of building for Mission Groups

What does Faith Formation look like in your congregation?
1. God Stories
2. Dwelling in the Word
3. Bible Studies
4. Temple Talks
5. Social outreach projects
6. Summer Camp to neighborhood

Does your congregation host any unique annual events or conferences?
1. Polka Worship
2. Lutefisk Meals for 400
3. Soup & Bowl of Caring for local food organizations
4. Blessing of the Quilts (for local schools)
5. Thrivent Action Teams
6. Hanging of the greens...Christmas decorating
7. Summer Outreach Camp - VBS
8. Summer Camp for Youth - Camp Chrysaliis

Are there any ministry teams within your church whose ministries you’d like to highlight?
1. Sharing and Caring
2. Piecemakers (Quilters)
3. Lutefisk Meals

Does your congregation have a relationship with any other ELCA or Ecumenical Churches? If so, please describe.
The local churches in the Rio Grande Valley