i love you
but do you
love me?

Sergio Rodriguez, Vicar
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Gathering
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

In spite of all we have heard and all that we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus’ victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the Lord Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of the holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, O Living One,
for you have created all, and you water the earth abundantly.
Oceans and aquifers praise you. Rivers and streams bless you.

All life is sustained by you, our Source.
We praise you for Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
who frees us from sin and raises us up to new life.
Here at this font we touch the river of the water of life,
bright as crystal, flowing through the city of God.
Here, death is washed away forever.
Here, we are grafted into the tree of life,
with leaves for the healing of the world.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this assembly,
into this community, and throughout all creation.
Cleanse us from our fears and drown our divisions.
Grant that all may drink of your mercy and peace,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.
GATHERING HYMN  (ELW p. 413)  Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty

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

Se-ñor, Se-ñor, ten pie-dad; ten pie-dad de no-sotros.
Lord, have mercy on us; O . . . Lord, have mercy.

Se-ñor, Se-ñor, ten pie-dad de no-sotros.
Lord, have mercy on us; O . . . Lord, have mercy.

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Lord, have mercy on us; O . . . Lord, have mercy.

Se-ñor, Se-ñor, ten pie-dad; ten pie-dad de no-sotros.
Lord, have mercy on us; O . . . Lord, have mercy.
CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Let us pray. Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow 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: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

Each of us has a story of meeting God’s grace. Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the Way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his transformation, beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.
Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 30

R: You have turned my wailing into dancing.

1 I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up and have not let my enemies triumph over me.
2 O Lord my God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health.
3 You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead; you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.
4 Sing praise to the Lord, all you faithful; give thanks in holy remembrance. R
5 God’s wrath is short; God’s favor lasts a lifetime.
   Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.
6 While I felt secure, I said, “I shall never be disturbed.”
7 You, Lord, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains.”
   Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear.
8 I cried to you, O Lord; I pleaded with my Lord, saying, What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?
   Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?
9 Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; O Lord, be my helper.” R
10 You have turned my wailing into dancing; you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.
11 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever. R
SECOND READING:  Revelation 5:11-14

The vision of John recorded in Revelation offers a glimpse of cosmic worship on the Lord’s Day. At its center is “the Lamb who was slain.”

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 singing with full voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

“To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

14 And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO:  21:1-19

Glory to You, O, Lord.

The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple’s love and obedience.
1 After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. 2 Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. 3 Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

4 Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” 6 He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. 7 That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. 8 But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

9 When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. 10 Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” 11 So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” 16 A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. 18 Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” 19 (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW p. 798) Come, Follow ME, the Savior Spake
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; 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

Trusting God’s promise of new life, we pray for the renewal of the church, the world, and all of creation.

The assembly shall kneel, as they are able

You call your disciples to follow the way of the cross by their words and works of love. Make your church a place of welcome and empathy for all people. Free us from ego, pride, bias, and bigotry that we may work hand in hand to spread your message of love throughout this congregation, this community, and the world. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Every creature in heaven and on earth sings your praise. Give us deep appreciation for the vibrant diversity of creation—flowers and streams, animals and bugs, sunsets and stormy skies. Help us to conserve the beauty around us. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Come to the aid of those who are persecuted, oppressed, or imprisoned by hostile governments, especially those in the countries of Hungary, Serbia, Nicaragua, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Bolivia, Columbia, Camaroon, Mexico, and Venezuela. Walk with refugees and immigrants as they seek safe homes. Raise up leaders who are generous and hospitable to migrant families. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Bring relief to bodies weary with pain or sickness. Bless doctors, nurses, hospice workers, home health care providers, therapists, social workers, and all caregivers who demonstrate your love in acts of healing and tenderness toward those in need, especially Gilbert, Mitch, Linda, Laquita, Mary Louise, Francis, Elfren, Leroy, Alejandra, Liz, John, as well as those that we name out loud or in our hearts… Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.
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 continue the path you have shown them through continued vision and direction, as you 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 grow their ministries through the St. Paul’s Squared opportunity. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

With all churches in the Southwestern Texas Synod we pray for each other and also for ELCA member congregations such as those in the Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, Faith Lutheran Church in Beeville, TX, and Newberry College. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

You feed us at your holy table and send us out to feed others. Bless those who fish, bake, and cook, restaurant servers, grocery store workers, and food pantry volunteers. Open our eyes to your grace present in every meal that we share. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

All honor and glory and blessing belong to you. We praise you for the faith of the saints. Be near us as we await the day when we will feast with the risen Christ forever. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God. Come near to us with your saving help, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our risen 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.

(ELW p. 186) Create in Me a Clean Heart

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Risen One, as you broke bread with the disciples on the shore, meet us now in this meal. Nourish us to follow you, using our gifts to feed the hungry and tend the weary, and all for your love’s sake. Amen.

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.
Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.
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.
With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord’s passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
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

Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, gives everyone a place at the welcome table.
Alleluia! Come to the feast.

The assembly is seated.

COMMUNION SONG
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

Living God, you have greeted us in our brokenness and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us. Risen to new life with you, send us now to bear your healing love into the wounded world, in the name of our risen Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sending

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

BLESSING

The blessing of the living God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage. Amen.

SENDING SONG (ELW p. 459) Wade in the Water

DISMISSAL

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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

**Ill, Injured or Otherwise Struggling:** Gilbert Anthony, Mitch Dorn, Shane Edens, Linda Franke, Norma Foreman, Laquita Gibbens, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Raymond Jenkins, Mary Louise Jonas, Steve Kelly, Evalina, Francis Kempe, Khloe Martinez, Elfren Moczygemba, John Moczygemba, Leroy Polderick, Alesandra, Carly Rosenboon, Liz Saldana, John Tackitt, Jerry Vajdos, 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:** Stacey Mika (May 7), Jovi Jonas (May 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.

2021 ELCA Youth Gathering Planning Team
Applications OPEN

The Gathering is primarily planned and led by amazing volunteers who serve on 14 different teams. Starting April 21, 2019 we will be accepting applications from individuals who would like to participate in the planning process. Applications will be accepted until June 21, 2019. A few additional details about the application process: We expect to receive hundreds more applications than available planning team roles. We hope that if you are not selected for a planning team, you will consider attending as an adult leader participant with your congregation or apply to serve as a Gathering volunteer. More information about serving as a volunteer will be released this fall. During the application process you will be asked to select up to three teams that are of interest. Learn more about each teams’ responsibilities here. Those selected for a planning team will be notified by the respective planning team leader no later than August 21, 2019. If you have questions about the application process, please email gathering@elca.org.
“So, what do you do at Synod Assembly? It’s just a bunch of meetings, right?”
There are business sessions, but there are also many learning opportunities, much like at *Eqipping the Saints*. You choose which workshops are appealing to you. These are the options that will be available this year:

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY WORKSHOPS**

**Stamina for Your Soul: Cultivating Spiritual Practices that Foster Good Health**
In the midst of busy, overfilled lives, too often we don’t listen to what our bodies really need. Join Portico Regional Representative Deacon Terri Endres for a look at what we can learn from the story of the Feeding of the 5000 about how to be healthy. We’ll also identify activities and attitudes that can help us navigate our daily responsibilities while still finding time for self-care.

*Deacon Terri Endres loves helping people be the healthiest version of themselves in order to better serve God and their neighbor. Terri has been with Portico Benefit Services for 6 years. She is married to Chris and they have one adult daughter, a dog, and a cat.*

**Opening our eyes to the power and joy of living our faith in daily life**
This workshop will focus on a framework to use as we strive as Christian believers to grow in faith, love and obedience to God’s will in our everyday lives. Information will include resources that both individuals and ministry settings can use to strengthen the ways they demonstrate that they are followers of Christ. Strategies for enhancing the prayer life in ministry settings will be discussed.

*Rev. Brenda K. Smith is Program Director for Faith Practices and Book of Faith in the Domestic Mission Unit of the ELCA Churchwide Office. She works with other faith formation leaders, both lay and clergy, to create a culture of discipleship in the ELCA. Rev. Smith and Rev. Dwight DuBois coordinate the Book of Faith ministry, one that aims individuals and congregations to be intentional about opening the Bible and having conversations about the transformative power of the word of God. She also convenes the ELCA’s Renewal/Prayer/Revival Team that offers healing and prayer services; Lutheran revivals; and workshops on various topics across ELCA entities.*

**ELCA Campus Ministry Research and Results**
A recently commissioned study of Lutheran campus ministry offers valuable insights into the lives of college students and how congregations might better serve this dynamic population.

*James “Jaime” Bouzard has served as campus pastor at Texas State University in San Marcos for the past twelve years. He also serves as chair of the SWT Synod Candidacy Committee and is married to Gayle Gordon Bouzard, a professor of sociology at Texas State. They have one son, Zane, recently married, who works as a video developer and editor for the Alamo Draft House.*

**The How To’s of Technology**
In this workshop, you will learn how to use Smartsheet, FaceBook, ACS, and other technological platforms the Southwestern Texas Synod uses. We will also cover other communication technology tools if we have time. Come with questions.

*Deacon Darcy Mittelstaedt, Bishop’s Associate of Faith Formation, Communication, and Administration has been serving in the Lutheran Church for the past 20 years in a variety of ways. Her gifts include administration (she enjoys organization and detail work), faith formation, communications/social media and volunteer coordination. She is highly connected to colleagues around the church. She has served in the Nebraska Synod and Grand Canyon Synod and studied at Luther Seminary.*
It takes a village... but where are they?
Calling all coaches, ministers, managers, and other leaders!! This workshop is for all leaders who need volunteers and struggle to find them. We will learn how to identify our needs and how to approach and ask people to volunteer. You will leave this workshop with a plan for finding gifted volunteers to work with.

Deacon Chris St. Clair is a Deacon of Faith Formation and Service at Triumphant Lutheran in Garden Ridge. I have been in ministry for 15+ years and spent my years failing-forward to build a community of leaders.

Speaking without Manuscripts
Have you ever left your notes behind for a lesson, speech, or sermon? Have you ever woken up in a panic about being in that situation? This workshop will help you build confidence about public speaking with few or no notes. We will talk about preparation strategies and how to gradually reduce the notes you use while maintaining a focused message. You will learn how to engage your audience with better eye contact and adaptability to the situation.

Pastor Jessica serves Living Word, where she regularly preaches without notes and tells biblical stories from memory. She frequently fields questions about how to speak without notes, and comments about the effectiveness of this style of public speaking.

Review of the proposed budget for 2020/2021
A workshop for review and questions about the proposed budget. We will discuss how the various numbers are determined plus the numerous items needed to be considered before choosing those figures.

Elaine has been the synod treasurer for three years. She is a local retired CPA who graduated from Texas Lutheran University, and currently is a member of Spirit of Joy in Seguin, TX.

So You Think You Might Want to be a Pastor or Deacon? Candidacy in the ELCA Explained
Becoming a rostered leader in the ELCA can happen through any number of routes. Learn how you or someone in your congregation can become a pastor or deacon or a Synodically Authorized Minister. The gifts the Spirit gives are many, and yours may be needed now.

James “Jaime” Bouzard has served as campus pastor at Texas State University in San Marcos for the past twelve years. He also serves as chair of the SWT Synod Candidacy Committee and is married to Gayle Gordon Bouzard, a professor of sociology at Texas State. They have one son, Zane, recently married, who works as a video developer and editor for the Alamo Draft House.

Transformational Generosity Through Legacy Giving
Everything that we have is a gift that God places in our care during our lifetimes. We each have the privilege, responsibility and joy of being a steward, of caring for loved ones, for God’s creation, and also creating gifts for ministry. Deacon John Dellis will provide information on legacy and estate planning, including how to care for your family and benefit ministries of the church, as well as other non-profit organizations.

Deacon John Dellis serves as the senior gift planner for the synod with Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest. He has also served as the minister of St. Peter’s, Goliad, interim minister at MacArthur Park, San Antonio, on the staff of Texas Lutheran University, and at St. Luke’s Lutheran Hospital.
Learning from our Partner Synod in Costa Rica
Learnings from my time on a mini-sabbatical, a one-month stay and tour of Lutheran churches in Costa Rica. I focused on learning and sharing ideas about outdoor ministry, worship with children and working with indigenous communities. I also got to learn about youth leadership development and talk about models for pastor roles.

Carmen Retzlaff is the pastor of New Life Lutheran in Dripping Springs, an outdoor church in the Hill Country. Her ministry focuses on worshiping in and with nature, and including children in worship and all aspects of congregational life.

Barna
Participants will engage in a simple card game that provides a way to learn about cultural differences. The game will be followed by a debriefing to share learnings and make commitments about future behaviors and attitudes toward others. The workshop is limited to 30 participants.

The Rev Dr. Judith Spindt serves as Associate of the Bishop for Missional Leadership. She formerly served as the Director for Evangelical Mission in this synod. She is a graduate of the Seminario Evangelico de Puerto Rico, and has served parishes in Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands and Northern California. Her Doctor of Ministry is from McCormick Theological Seminary in congregational revitalization.

Zen Practice for Lutheran Christians
This workshop explores how Zen practice (meditation) can inform and enrich the life of faith for Lutheran Christians. We will explore the relationship between salvation and the sacraments through Zen stories and meditation practice. Come enjoy this intellectually stimulating and practically grounded workshop.

Travis Fitzgold founded and runs the Zen Learning Project, a spiritual practice community in Austin, TX. He lives with his wife and daughter, and is awaiting first call as a pastor in the ELCA.

Extraordinary Callings
This workshop will provide an overlook at the 30+ year LGBTQIA+ movement in the Lutheran Church. To commemorate 10 years since the 2009 decision to include LGBTQIA+ clergy into the Lutheran roster, the Bade Museum will display ELM’s historical archives, Proclaimer artwork, stoles, and other items in a dedicated museum exhibit on display from March 14- July 26, 2019, in Berkeley, CA. This workshop will be interactive, inclusive, and informative.

Lewis Eggleston is the Associate Director of Development and Communications at Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries. He is currently an Intern Pastor at Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church in Seguin, TX. He is an Air Force Spouse and a proud papa to their dog-child Carla and they all reside in San Antonio.

AMMPARO: Congregations walking alongside our immigrant neighbors
Workshop participants will learn about the work of AMMPARO and how congregations can become a part of this ever growing network of congregations and communities.

Brian has served in the Southwestern Texas Synod for almost thirty years, currently as pastor of Ascension Lutheran in Austin. He has deep ties to at risk communities in both Nicaragua and Honduras and is well versed in the economic, social and political causes of migration.
Open Our Eyes to Our Neighbor
This workshop will introduce you to the tool of One to One Relational Meetings which is a way of deepening relationships within our congregation as well as in the broader community. As Jesus showed us, building relationships is a beginning to loving our neighbor. Building relationships within your congregation and community will enable you to live out the call to love your neighbor. Building relationships will be the catalyst for the transformation of your congregation and will make your congregation a leading voice in the community.

The ABC’s of Immigration
This workshop will offer a timeline of immigration law and the process of immigration from the birth of our nation to contemporary times as relayed by a panel of speakers including an ICE employee, an LIRS representative, and an immigration attorney.

The Immigration and Refugee Task Force (Chair-Paul Pfeifer, Pastor Dawn Silvius, Joel Vale, Bishop Sue Briner, Pastor Paul Ziese, Julie Magadance, Dr. Judith Hoffman, Pastor Brian Peterson, and Yael Mendez) works to assist interested persons and congregations in the Southwestern Texas Synod and across the ELCA to engage in education/training, service and advocacy with and for our marginalized neighbors.

LEAD (Keynote Speaker) Workshop
This workshop will offer a bit more of what she will be presenting to the whole group. More of a description will be added soon. Watch for more details.

Peggy Hahn serves as the Executive Director for LEAD, aligning passionate leaders, resources, and practices to grow Christian leaders who grow faith communities in our world. Peggy is a frequent speaker and author who is never without a pile of books to read and seeks coaches and mentors for herself in an ongoing quest to learn and grow. Peggy is committed to listening to pastors and leaders of all ages for insight into the ways they are growing in their own faith and what LEAD can do to support them in their development as leaders.