St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
Reformation Sunday
October 27, 2019

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Gathering

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

On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ—the good news—that makes us free! We pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of baptism we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians will also be one at the Lord’s table.

HOLY BAPTISM
OF
AMADI ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ

Parents: Regino & Samantha Rodriguez
Sponsor: Christian Foree

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsor presents the candidate:
I present Amadi Elizabeth Rodriguez for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:
- to live with her among God's faithful people,
- bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
- teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
- place in her hands the holy scriptures,
- and nurture her in faith and prayer,
- so that your child may learn to trust God,
- proclaim Christ through word and deed,
- care for others and the world God made,
- and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.
The presiding minister addresses sponsors:
Sponsors, do you promise to nurture this child in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?
Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:
People of God, do you promise to support Amadi Elizabeth Rodriguez and pray for her in her new life in Christ?
We do.

The assembly stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
Response: I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.
Do you believe in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
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.
THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus’ death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

BAPTISM

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Amadi Elizabeth Rodriguez with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Amadi Elizabeth Rodriguez, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

GATHERING HYMN  (ELW p. 504)  A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
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

Señor, Señor, ten piedad; ten piedad de nosotros.
Lord, have mercy on us; O... Lord, have...

Señor, Señor, ten piedad; ten piedad de nosotros.
Lord, have mercy on us; O... Lord, have...

Cristo, Cristo, ten piedad; ten piedad de nosotros.
Christ, have mercy on us; O... Christ, have...

Cristo, Cristo, ten piedad; ten piedad de nosotros.
Christ, have mercy on us; O... Christ, have...

Señor, Señor, ten piedad; ten piedad de nosotros.
Lord, have mercy on us; O... Lord, have...

Señor, Señor, ten piedad; ten piedad de nosotros.
Lord, have mercy on us; O... Lord, have...
CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Let us pray. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, 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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Oremos. Dios Todopoderoso, señor misericordioso, te agradecemos que tu Espíritu Santo renueva la iglesia en todas las edades. Derrama tu Espíritu Santo en tu pueblo fiel. Mantenerlos firmes en su palabra, protegerlos y confortarlos en tiempos de prueba, defenderlos contra todos los enemigos del Evangelio, y otorgar a la iglesia su paz salvadora, a través de Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador y Señor, que vive y reina con usted y el Espíritu Santo, un Dios, ahora y para siempre. Amén.
Word

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 46

R: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

1 God is our refuge and strength,
   a very present help in trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
   and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;
3 though its waters rage and foam,
   and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
   the holy habitation of the Most High.
5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
   God shall help it at the break of day.
6 The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
   God speaks, and the earth melts away. R
7 The Lord of hosts is with us;
   the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
8 Come now, regard the works | of the Lord,
   what desolations God has brought up-on the earth;
9 behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
   who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
10 “Be still, then, and know that I am God;
   I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”
11 The Lord of hosts is with us;
   the God of Jacob is our stronghold. R
Paul’s words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ’s death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

21 But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; 26 it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.
The assembly stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

¡A-le-lu-ya, a-le-lu-ya, a-le-lu-ya!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

¡A-le-lu-ya, a-le-lu-ya, a-le-lu-ya!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

¡A-le-lu-ya, a-le-lu-ya, a-le-lu-ya!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, a-le-lu-ia!

¡A-le-lu-ya, a-le-lu-ya, a-le-lu-ya!
Al-le-lu-ia, a-le-lu-ia, a-le-lu-ia!
Glory to You, O, Lord.

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” 33 They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’” 34 Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW p. 513) Listen, God Is Calling

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Knowing the one in whom we trust, and with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need.

The assembly shall kneel, as they are able

God, our refuge and strength, you make all things new. Reform your church so that our life together bears witness to your unmerited love. Free us from sin and write the law of love on our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Reform our relationships with you, with one another, and with all creation. Restore this good earth, the home you entrust to our care. Enrich soils, cleanse waters, and purify the air. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bring an end to war and to the violence that shakes the nations and worries your people. When voices of fear threaten to overwhelm us, fill the earth with your peace and strength. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Be the present help of those suffering the tumult of illness, poverty, abandonment, and uncertainty. Bring your calm and healing to those in need, especially Gilbert, Suzanne, Diane, Shane, Norma, Laquita, Linda, Jack, Raymond, Mary Louise, Steve, Khloe, Krys & Jamie, Elfren, Jimmy, the Ndeh Family, Erna Mae, Alejandro, Carly, Meredene, Casey, Jerry, Kyle, Cody, and Norma, as well as those that we name out loud or in our hearts... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
In this community, O Lord, we are all sinners and saints. In our dealings with one another and in our witness in the world, help us trust in your mercy, freely offering others what you give us. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

As we sow Seeds of Hope, 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 Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, and Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Rockport, TX. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

We remember before you those who have died in Christ and now live in the fullness of salvation. We trust your presence now even as we wait for your glory to be revealed. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Trusting and delighting in you, we commend all our lives into your loving hands. We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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. 465) As the Grains of Wheat

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God our provider, we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it. Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table, and with them the offering of our lives. Nourish us now with the life that really is life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal 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:

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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We lift them to the Lord.

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THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, 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 welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come, take your place at 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

God of blessing,
at this table we have seen you face to face,
and in the gift of Christ’s body and blood,
our hearts have been refreshed.
Send us now to shine with your goodness
and bear witness to the one we have received:
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sending

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

BE LEG IN

Guard the good treasure entrusted to you,
with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Almighty God ☩ bless you with grace, mercy, and peace,
now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG    (ELW p. 729)    The Church of Christ, in Every Age

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us.

Thanks be to God.

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

**Ill, Injured or Otherwise Struggling:** Gilbert Anthony, Suzanne Dietzel, Diane Dziuk, Shane Edens, Norma Foreman, Laquita Gibbens, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Raymond Jenkins, Mary Louise Jonas, Steve Kelly, Khloe Martinez, Krys & Jamie Michael, Elfren Moczygemba, Jimmy Moore, Ndeh Family, Erna Mae Pfeil, Alejandra, Carly Rosenboon, Meredene Shockome, Casey Stagg, Jerry Vajdos, 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

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.
Announcements
Opportunities to Learn, Worship, Pray, and Serve

St. Paul’s Squared Hymn Sing
A Joint Hymn Sing will be held at St. Paul’s Nordheim today at 3:00 p.m.

Quilting
The Quilting Group meets each Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.
The Fall quilting project is the creation and completion of Christmas Gift Lap Quilts for all of the residents at Bluebonnet Nursing Center and Karnes City Health & Rehabilitation.
All are Welcome to join in this fun project!

“Jesus ascends, now what?”
Bible Study resumes on Tuesday, October 29 with a study of Acts 1.
We’ll meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. A light supper will be served.
There is no charge!
All are WELCOME!

Karnes City Downtown Trick or Treat - October 31
St. Paul’s will be participating again this year. Anyone that would like to help pass out goodies is welcome! It’s a lot of FUN!
If you can help or you have questions, please speak with a council member or Barbara.
Golden Rule 2020:
A Call for Dignity and Respect in Politics
Sunday, November 3, 2019

On Sunday, November 3, 2019, join individuals and congregations from a wide range of theological and political views in supporting Golden Rule 2020: A Call for Dignity and Respect in Politics. On this day, exactly one year before the national election, Christians will come together to affirm the need to apply spiritual principles to our political discussions in order to heal divisions in our country.

What is the Purpose of Golden Rule 2020?
The purpose of Golden Rule 2020 is to get churches from across the theological and political spectrum to demonstrate their concern about the polarization in our country and emphasize the need for Christians to take specific actions to counteract it. On Sunday, November 3, 2019, congregations will do this by emphasizing that Christian teachings about human dignity and, in particular, Jesus' command to “do unto others as you would have them do unto you” should apply to our political discussions. Many other faith traditions also teach some form of “The Golden Rule,” and all who would like to join in applying this principle to our politics throughout 2020, are most welcomed.

Who is Organizing It?
Golden Rule 2020 was created by Christian leaders of diverse views at an event hosted by the National Institute for Civil Discourse in May of 2019. Those who created Golden Rule 2020 represent a diverse group of denominations and organizations including: American Baptist Churches USA, National Association of Evangelicals, The Episcopal Church, the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, Presbyterian Church USA, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Mormon Women for Ethical Government, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Council of Churches. Congregations associated with these and many other Christian groups will be participating.

What Will Happen on November 3, 2019?
Congregations all over the country will take time during worship services to pray for our country and emphasis Christian teachings about dignity, respect and the need for civility in our political discussions. One suggested focus is the practical application of the Golden Rule and how politics in 2020 would be different if Christians followed Biblical teachings about how to treat people who disagree with them. Congregations will participate in a wide variety of ways including: Special readings and prayers, Sunday School lessons, using a short liturgy, putting information about Golden Rule 2020 in bulletins, having sermons on the need for dignity and respect, and providing suggestions about how church members can apply the Golden Rule to political discussions.

Why is Golden Rule 2020 Important?
A large nationwide activity involving both liberal and conservative Christians will call attention to the fact that how we treat our political opponents is a moral issue and encourage millions of people to do what they can to bridge the divisions in our country. Media coverage of this unique event can help make concerns about civility and respect a more central issue in 2020 and help begin the healing that our country so badly needs.

How to Participate
Information on how to participate and materials you can use in your congregation can be found at www.ReviveCivility.org. You can also sign up here to indicate your support for Golden Rule 2020 and receive updates on its activities.