

THE SIXTH SUNDAY
AFTER THE

Epiphany

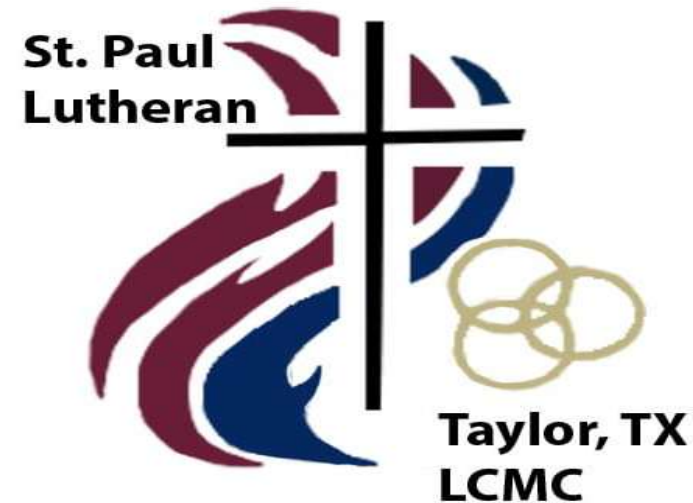
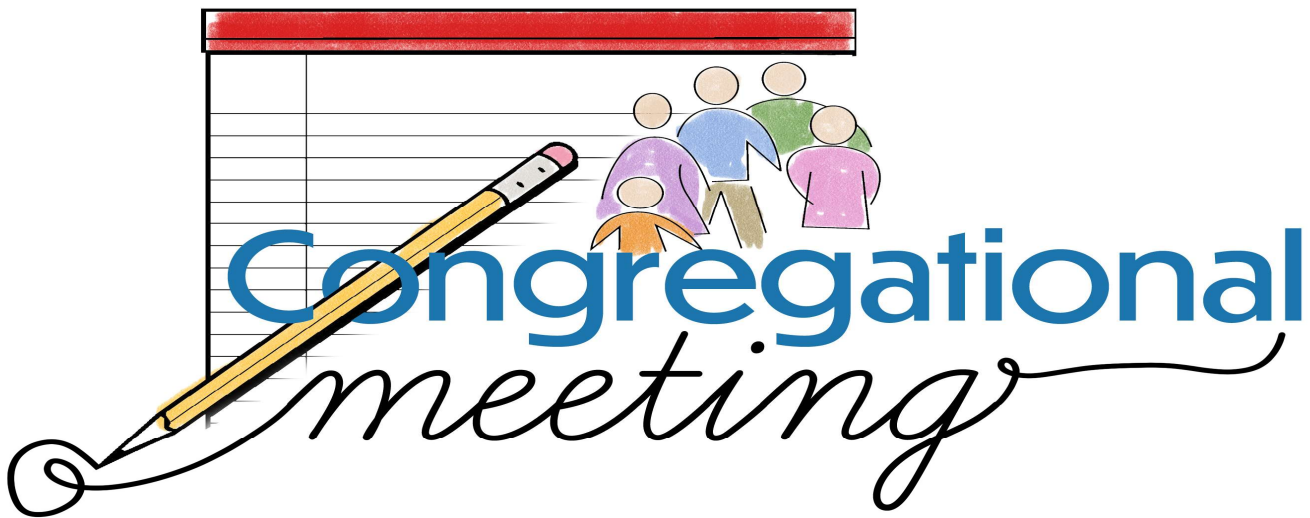


***Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Child Development Center and Pre-School***
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor

February 16, 2025



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St. Paul Lutheran Church
Child Development Center and Pre-School***
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Congregational meeting will be held February 23 immediately following church service.

In addition to the Annual Report, the congregation will discuss proposed changes to the Congregational Constitution.

Copies of the Annual Report and Proposed Constitution changes are available in the Narthex.

When you can't
see the way,
let God lead you.



lcmc
Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

WELCOME

WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US

INTRODUCTION

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 offers power to heal us all.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the
meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;**

we assume the worst about one another.

**Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.**

**Show us your lovingkindness.
Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.
Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine."
In + Christ, you are forgiven.
In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.
Amen.

Gathering Song

“Oh, Sing to the Lord”

Hymn # 822

**1 Oh, sing to the Lord,
oh, sing God a new song.
Oh, sing to the Lord,
oh, sing God a new song.**

Hymn # 822

**Oh, sing to the Lord,
oh, sing God a new song.
Oh, sing to our God,
oh sing to our God.**

Hymn # 822

**2 For God is the Lord,
and God has done wonders.
For God is the Lord,
and God has done wonders.**

Hymn # 822

**For God is the Lord,
and God has done wonders.
Oh, sing to our God,
oh sing to our God.**

Hymn # 822

**³ So, dance for our God and
blow all the trumpets.
So, dance for our God and
blow all the trumpets.**

Hymn # 822

**So, dance for our God and
blow all the trumpets.
Oh, sing to our God,
oh sing to our God.**

Hymn # 822

**4 Oh, shout to our God,
who gave us the Spirit.
Oh, shout to our God,
who gave us the Spirit.**

Hymn # 822

**Oh, shout to our God,
who gave us the Spirit.
Oh, sing to our God,
oh sing to our God.**

Hymn # 822

**Final For Jesus is Lord!
Amen! Alleluia!
For Jesus is Lord!
Amen! Alleluia!**

Hymn # 822

**For Jesus is Lord!
Amen! Alleluia!
Oh, sing to our God,
oh sing to our God.**

Hymn # 822

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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy.

*For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord*

Lord, have mercy.

*For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being
of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us
pray to the lord*

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their
worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord
A-men.

THIS IS THE FEAST

***This is the feast of victory
for our God.***

Alleluia, alleluia

(sung twice)

***Worthy is Christ,
the Lamb who was slain
whose blood set us free
to be people of God***

***Power, riches, wisdom, and
strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory
are his***

***This is the feast of victory
for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia***

(sung twice)

***Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all
creation:***

***Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever.
Amen.***

***This is the feast of victory
for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia***

(sung twice)

***For the Lamb who was slain
has begun his reign. Alleluia.***

***This is the feast of victory
for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia***

(sung twice)

Prayer of the Day

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.

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-10

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 1

They are like trees planted by streams of water. (Ps. 1:3)

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.**

- 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.**

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.

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵We 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. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised.

¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia.

Lord, to who shall we go?

***You have the words
of eternal Life.***

Alleluia.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 6:17-26

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

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. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. ²⁰Then 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. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²²"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice 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. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

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.



CHILDREN'S
SERMON

Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley



Hymn of the Day

“Let Justice Flow like Streams”

Hymn # 717

**¹ Let justice flow like streams
of sparkling water, pure,
enabling growth, refreshing
life, abundant, cleansing,
sure.**

Hymn # 717

**2 Let righteousness roll on
as others' cares we heed,
an ever-flowing stream of
faith translated into deed.**

Hymn # 717

Final So may God's plumb line,
straight,
define our measure true,
and justice, right, and peace
pervade this world our whole
life through.

Hymn # 717

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

CREED

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the
Father,
and he will come to judge the living and
the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit.

Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration.

Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way and we remember our friends and family members before God. Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionaries; for Cheryl Kruckemeyer our missionary in Tanzania, for Debby in the Home Office serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Faith Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado. By the power of your Holy Spirit, guide the District Council of LCMC Texas and give them wisdom as they steward your call for us to multiply disciples and churches.

Today we also give you thanks for First English in Victoria, Texas and their pastor, Chip Reynolds. Bless their work for your Kingdom's sake. Bless and protect all our local nurses, doctors, healthcare workers and first responders, our students, teachers and school administrators. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

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...

...we praise your name and join their
unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of power and might,
heaven 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.***

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

COMMUNION

Holy Communion is offered both in the center aisle line and at the altar rail.

Lamb of God

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.***

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you
peace.

Amen.

Sending Song

“The Lord Now Sends Us Forth”

Hymn # 538

**¹ The Lord now sends us forth
with hands to serve and give,
to make of all the earth
a better place to live.**

(sung twice)

Hymn # 538

Final The angels are not sent
into our world of pain
to do what we were meant
to do in Jesus' name;

Hymn # 538

**that falls to you and me
and all who are made free.
Help us, O Lord, we pray,
to do your will today**

Hymn # 538

**The angels are not sent
into our world of pain
to do what we were meant
to do in Jesus' name;**

Hymn # 538

**that falls to you and me
and all who are made free.
Help us, O Lord, we pray,
to do your will today.**

Hymn # 538

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in Hope.

Thanks be to God.

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