

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO



**2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 9, 2018**

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2470 Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80214
(303) 233-5000 – www.denverlutheran.com

Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)
www.clclutheran.org

Thomas Schuetze, pastor (303-428-5524)
Larry Reed, president – Mike Sprengeler, SS Superintendent
Ruth Greening, Suzannah Miller, Lisa Sprengeler, organists

ORDER OF WORSHIP: SERVICE OF THE WORD

(printed on liturgy insert inside front cover of maroon hymnal)

- ◆ Pre-service Devotion: Psalm 32 (pew bible, p.495)
- ◆ The Hymns: 352, 347, 354 (1-3), 354 (4)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 24

Sermon Text – Malachi 3:1-4

LET THE LORD'S MESSENGER CLEAR THE WAY

1. He reminds you of the important reason for Jesus' coming.
2. He proclaims the message of repentance.
3. He draws you to joyful service of your Savior.



- ◆ Offering of Our Hearts and Gifts
- ◆ Prayer & the Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (354, stanza 4)

† † †

A CORDIAL GREETING AND WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS. We are pleased to have you worshiping with us today and invite you to come often. Please take a few moments to sign our guest book. If you have no church home in the community and are seeking a fellowship in which you might worship and serve your Lord, we invite you to speak with the Pastor who will be happy to call on you to share our confession and mission with you.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

First Lesson – Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Psalm for the Day – From Psalm 24

P The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it:

C The world, and all who live in it.

P For he founded it upon the seas:

C And established it upon the waters.

P Who may ascend the hill of the Lord?:

C Who may stand in his holy place?

P He who has clean hands and a pure heart:

C He will receive blessing from God his Savior.

P Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors:

C That the King of glory may come in.

P Who is this King of glory?:

C The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

P Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors:

C That the King of glory may come in.

P Who is he, this King of glory?:

C The Lord Almighty— he is the King of glory.

Second Lesson – Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the

prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation.'"

Sermon Text – Malachi 3:1-4

"See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

† † †

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today (12/9)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Children's Christmas Eve Service Practice
	10:45 am	Christmas Potluck Christmas Baskets Assembly, following the potluck (see note below)
Sat	10:00 am	Children's Christmas Eve Service Practice
Sun (12/16)	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Children's Christmas Eve Service Practice

EXTENDED CALENDAR

- Children's Christmas Eve Service Practice: Dec.15,22 (10:00–11:30 am)
- Choir Practice: Sunday, Dec.16,23, 8:30 am
- Children's Christmas Eve Service: Monday, Dec.24, 6:30 pm
- Christmas Day Service: Tuesday, Dec.25, 9:30 am
- New Year's Eve Communion Service: Monday, Dec.31, 7 pm

SERVING US AT GOD'S HOUSE DURING DECEMBER

- Ushers: Don Claeys, Ed Chiappetti
- Elder: Mike Sprengeler
- Communion Assistant: Ed Chiappetti

THANKS TO ALL who gave of their their time, energy, and talent for decorating the church last Sunday. Everything looks great! May the decorations serve as a reminder of the precious Gift God has given us in His Son and the preparations we are to make to receive Him into our hearts again this Christmas.

The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high;
Beneath His feet in terror The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right, That heeds God's invitation
And makes true preparation— It is the Lord's delight.

Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive You This blessèd Advent-tide.
From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing Your praises gladly And forth Your glory show.

(LSB 354:3-4)

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POTLUCK: After the service today in the church fellowship hall. All are invited to remain and enjoy!

BASKETS: Today is also the day for preparing Christmas baskets for St. Paul members who are unable to regularly attend our services. The baskets will be assembled after the potluck. Please stay and help if you can.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE PRACTICE: This Saturday, December 15, from 10:00 to 11:30 am. The children's service is scheduled for Monday, December 24, at 6:30 pm.

DEVOTION BOOKLETS: Devotion booklets for the first quarter of the new church year are still available for those who did not yet receive one. They may be found on the shelf under the tract rack. The booklets contain one-page devotions authored by several CLC pastors for each day from December 3 through March 2 (except Sundays). Take more than one if you would like to for sharing with friends.

DIRECTORY UPDATES: A new St. Paul Directory will be printed soon for the new year. Please check your listing in the 2018 Directory to make sure your contact information is accurate and up-to-date. Kindly inform the pastor of any changes. Thank you!

CALLED HOME: It pleased the Lord in His wise providence to call retired CLC pastor Rollin Reim to his heavenly home on Wednesday, November 28. A memorial service will be conducted at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Mountain View, CA, on Thursday, December 20. *"And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away'" (Revelation 21:3-4).*

THE MIDWEST CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT, sponsored by Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, will be held March 22-24, 2019, at the Riverport Inn & Suites, Winona, MN. Registration is \$75 and opens on January 1, 2019 and will be limited to the first 120 applicants. Register at www.ladiesretreat.clclutheran.net. Choose the "Midwest Spring Retreat." Hotel reservations (separate from retreat registration) can be made by calling (507) 452-0606, with the special block rate for our group available now. Be sure to mention "retreat" to get the block rate. Deadline for both retreat registration and hotel reservations is Friday, February 22, 2019.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS DECEMBER 10-15

Mon **The Book of Daniel** has 12 chapters, and two per day will reacquaint us with this marvel. **Ch.1:** Daniel was treated royally in Babylon and was granted Kosher-exemption from palace cuisine, for which God blessed him with good health and superior intellect. **Ch. 2:** A crisis arose when God gave the king a nightmare which dumbfounded his soothsayers—but Daniel revealed that the empires of Babylon, Greece, and Rome would rise and fall—while the Kingdom of God would stand/endure forever. Amen and Hallelujah!

Tues ch. 3: Since Babylon's national religion put God's people between a rock and a hard place, God came to their rescue by pressuring the king to grant federal protection to Jews practicing their religion. **Ch.4:** Was the king converted? Nope. He needed another nightmare—and in this one God targeted the huge problem of his royal ego. God humiliated him for seven years, which was a hard lesson, but it straightened him out.

Wed Ch.5: Years later his son faced the writing on the wall and learned (via Daniel) that egoism was his problem, too. **Ch.6:** Darius appointed Daniel as Prime Minister, but envious subordinates manipulated the king into making himself the supreme idol of his nation. That put Daniel into a bind with the king—who wasn't a convert but was hopeful that Daniel's deity would not desert him. When the LORD God rescued Daniel from the lions' den, Darius "saw the light" of the Israelite religion. That was a good start.

Thurs Ch. 7: Daniel was feeling hassled, so God came to his rescue with the vision of God's Kingdom built on the Ancient of Days holding court in heaven and delegating His Son to stabilize His Kingdom on Earth. **Ch. 8:** This stabilizing wouldn't happen all at once but would go through some ups-and-downs during the course of our world's history. This vision disturbed Daniel so much that he fell ill and stayed at home for a few days before he could return to the office and carry on his administrative duties. We sympathize.

Fri Ch. 9 Daniel was a reader of God's Word, and because his heart hurt for his people, he apologized to God for the Jews causing so much ruckus that God had to chastise them for seventy years (Gabriel explained it). **Ch.10:** God carried Daniel through the spiritual crisis of facing another elite Angel, who laid out God's agenda for the kingdoms of Persia and Greece. Not to worry!

Sat Chs. 11 and 12 More kingdoms will rise and fall before God rings down the curtain with Judgment Day: *The multitudes of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. . . . But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.*" Hallelujah!