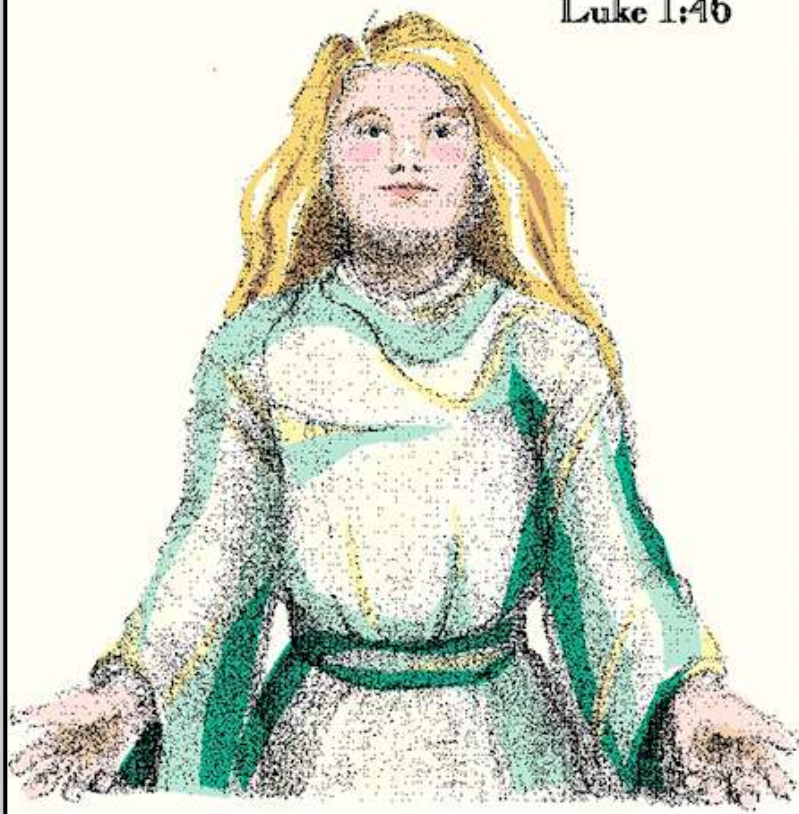


ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO

“My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in
God my Savior ...”

Luke 1:46



**4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 23, 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 85 (pew bible, p.526)
- ◆ The Hymns: 350, 356, 346, 934
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Micah 5:2-5a, Hebrews 10:5-10
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 18

Sermon Text – Luke 1:46-55

LET MARY SHOW US HOW TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

1. She praises God for His boundless mercy.
2. She glorifies Him for His superior power.
3. She rejoices in His unwavering faithfulness.

- ◆ Offering of Our Hearts and Gifts
- ◆ Prayer & the Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (934)

† † †

A Warm Welcome in Christ to our Worship Guests. We're glad for the opportunity to share with you the Gospel of forgiveness through Jesus! Please introduce yourself to the pastor and sign our guest book. We invite you to come worship with us again. If you would like to know more about St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church and our national organization, the Church of the Lutheran Confession, please speak with the pastor. He would be happy to call on you to share our confession and mission with you.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

First Lesson – Micah 5:2-5a

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be their peace.

Psalm for the Day – From Psalm 18

P The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer:

C My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.

P He reached down from on high and took hold of me:

C He rescued me from my powerful enemy.

P He brought me out into a spacious place:

C He rescued me because he delighted in me.

P You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning:

C My God turns my darkness into light.

P You save the humble:

C But bring low those whose eyes are haughty.

P It is God who arms me with strength:

C And makes my way perfect.

P He makes my feet like the feet of a deer:

C He enables me to stand on the heights.

P You give me your shield of victory:

C And your right hand sustains me.

Second Lesson – Hebrews 10:5-10

Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll— I have come to do your will, O God.'" First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them" (although the law required them to be made). Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Sermon Text – Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He

has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers.”



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today (12/23)	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 am	Worship Service
Monday (12/24)	6:30 pm	Children’s Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday (12/25)	9:30 am	Christmas Day Worship
Sunday (12/30)	9:30 am	Worship Service

EXTENDED CALENDAR

- New Year’s Eve Communion Service: Monday, Dec.31, 7 pm
- New Year’s Eve Fellowship Gathering at the Parsonage: Monday, Dec.31, 8:30 pm (*see note below*)

UPCOMING JANUARY EVENTS

- Mary & Martha Ladies’ Meeting: Sunday, Jan.13, 10:45 am
- Annual Voters’ Meeting: Sunday, Jan.20, 10:45 am

SERVING US AT GOD’S HOUSE DURING DECEMBER

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

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Tomorrow evening at 6:30! Our theme this year is "Jesus' Family Tree." In this service the children will show how God caused His Son to be born on earth from the family line dating back to Adam and Eve ... through Abraham ... David ... Mary and Joseph ... and how all Christians are blessed – through faith in the Savior – to be part of His family tree and possessors of His gift of eternal life.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Remember in your prayers Doug Tiefel and Bobbie Brethauer who are each recovering from recent surgeries (Doug from shoulder surgery and Bobbie from elbow surgery). *"I lift up my eyes to the hills— where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:1-2).*

NEW YEAR'S EVE GATHERING: Pastor Schuetze is hosting a fellowship gathering at the parsonage on New year's Eve, Dec.31, following the 7:00 pm worship service (beginning around 8:15). All are welcome to attend. If you plan to participate kindly RSVP the pastor via email or telephone (by this Friday, if possible) as this will help facilitate preparations. Thanks! (Note: If you would like to help with providing snack food or beverages please inform pastor.)

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Dear brothers & sisters in Christ Jesus of our St. Paul church family,

Though separated by many miles we feel close to you in spirit as we celebrate again the birthday of our Savior Jesus. Carol & I are thinking of our Denver church family and wishing each of you abiding comfort & joy in the blessing of salvation in Jesus birth, life, death, & resurrection. We pray He may give each of you a happy & healthy New Year filled with His blessings!

We thank you also for your faithful prayers for the Lord's blessing on Carol's treatment for breast cancer these past several months. She has successfully completed the chemo & surgery phase of her treatment and we ask your continuing prayers for the Lord's blessing on her final phase of radiation treatments in a few weeks.

If the Lord so wills, we hope to see you and worship with you sometime next summer.

In Christian love and fellowship in the Christ Child,
Pastor & Carol Sandeen

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DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS

DECEMBER 24-29

Mon We have music in our hearts because of **Micah 5:2**, which contrasts the small size of little Bethlehem with its importance, for Bethlehem was the hometown of Boaz and Ruth, Jesse, David, and Joseph, too. It is forever enshrined in *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (#647). **Luke 2** recounts the blessed event which prompted Mohr to compose *Silent Night! Holy Night!*—a world-wide favorite. [Note on v.3: With the dawn of redeeming grace, the pure light of the Son of God streams radiantly from His holy face.]

Tues Christmas cards feature shepherds because of **Luke 2:8-9**, for *To shepherds as they watched by night appeared a host of angels bright* (#103). Indeed, *While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around* (#109). *Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"* (#94).

Wed Isaiah 11:1-2 *Behold, a Branch is growing of loveliest form and grace; Isaiah hath foretold it in words of promise sure* (#645). When God's time-line had run its course, *God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law (Galatians 4:4) Now are the days fulfilled, God's Son is manifested; Behold the Prince of Peace—Now are the days fulfilled* (#99). Hallelujah!

Thurs We're still in **Luke's Gospel, ch. 2**, as we rejoice with Paul Gerhardt: *All my heart this night rejoices as I hear far and near sweetest angel voices. 'Christ is born,' their choirs are singing till the air ev'rywhere now with joy is ringing* (#77). Take Christmas home! *Thou Christian heart, whoe'er thou art, be of good cheer and let no sorrow move thee! For God's own Child, in mercy mild, joins thee to Him; how greatly God must love thee!* (#81).

Fri Did you hear Christmas? *Listen to the wondrous story which they chant in hymns of joy . . . Hasten, mortals, to adore Him, learn His name and taste His joy, till in heaven ye sing before Him, "Glory be to God most high!"* (#83), Luther really heard Christmas: *Give heed, my heart, lift up thine eyes! What is it in yon manger lies? The blessed Christ-child lieth there* (#85). And God moves us to respond: *Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, make Thee a bed soft, undefiled, within my heart that it may be a quiet chamber kept for Thee.*

Sat Luke 24:27 prompts us to *Welcome, O my Savior, now! Hail! My Portion, Lord, art Thou. Here, too, in my heart, I pray, Oh, prepare Thyself a way!* (#91). Through **John 1:14** the Spirit inspired Ambrose and Luther to put it this way: *Savior of the nations, come, virgin's Son, make here Thy home! Praise to God the Father sing, Praise to God the Son, our King, Praise to God the Spirit be ever and eternally* (#95). As we sing these precious hymns, we are thanking God for His Christmas gift to us. God bless us, each and every one! Amen.