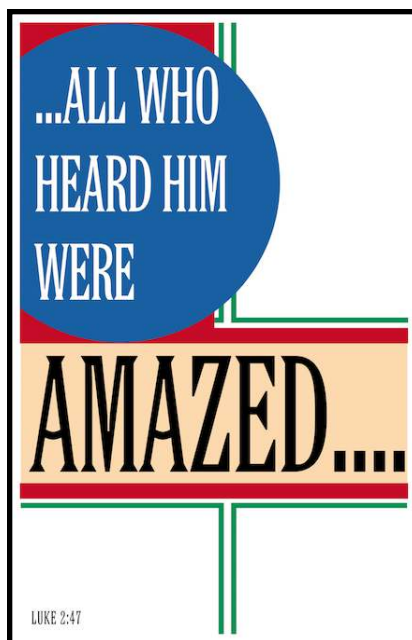


ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO



**1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 30, 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 111 (pew bible, p.542)
- ◆ The Hymns: 395, 362, 410, 390
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: 1 Samuel 2:18-20,26; Hebrews 2:10-18
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 122

Sermon Text – Luke 2:41-52

WHAT'S SO AMAZING ABOUT THIS BOY, JESUS?

1. He's God yet fully human.
2. He centers His life around His Father's business ... *for us.*

- ◆ Offering of Our Hearts and Gifts
- ◆ Prayer & the Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (390)

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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.

Liturgical Notes for the Christmas Season

The season of Christmas lasts for twelve days, from December 25 through January 5. With Christmas we begin to look at what God has done for us through His Son, Jesus Christ. Through Him our sins have been forgiven and washed away. The paraments up front are white, symbolizing the glory and holiness of the newborn Savior.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

First Lesson – 1 Samuel 2:18-20,26

Samuel was ministering before the LORD—a boy wearing a linen ephod. Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the LORD give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the LORD.” Then they would go home. | And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with men.

Psalm for the Day – From Psalm 122

P I rejoiced with those who said to me:
C “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”
P Our feet are standing in your gates:
C O Jerusalem.
P That is where the tribes of the LORD go up:
C To praise the name of the LORD.
P Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
C “May those who love you be secure.
P May there be peace within your walls:
C And security within your citadels.”
P For the sake of my brothers and friends:
C I will say, “Peace be within you.”
P For the sake of the house of the LORD our God:
C I will seek your prosperity.

Second Lesson – Hebrews 2:10-18

In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises.” And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.” Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Sermon Text – Luke 2:41-52

Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day.

Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them. Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today (12/30)	9:30 am	Worship Service (No Sunday School or Bible Class)
Monday (12/31)	7:00 pm	New Year's Eve Communion Service
	8:15 pm	Fellowship Gathering at the Parsonage
Sunday (1/6)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School (Wise Men and Flight to Egypt, NT 4) (Bible Class will resume January 13)

UPCOMING IN JANUARY

- Church Council Meeting: Sunday, January 13
- Mary & Martha Ladies' Meeting: Sunday, January 20, 10:45 am
- Annual Mtg of the Congregation: Sunday, January 27, 10:45 am

SERVING US AT GOD'S HOUSE DURING DECEMBER

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

DURING JANUARY

- Ushers: Ed Chiappetti, Bob Rankin
- Elder: Larry Reed
- Communion Assistant: Ed Chiappetti

NOTE TO ST. PAUL COMMUNICANTS: Holy Communion will be celebrated in January one week later than is customary, on Sunday, January 13. Also, a reminder to all that private communion is available from the pastor at any time upon request.

BAPTISM ANNOUNCEMENT: HENRIK SCOTT ASWEGE was received into the kingdom of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in a private ceremony conducted here at the church on Christmas Eve morning. Henrik is the son of Nathan and Barbara Aswege of Golden. The special witnesses for Henrik's baptism were Brad and Gail Martin. Mike Sprengeler and Larry Reed were also present as witnesses for St. Paul Congregation. We pray the Good Shepherd to keep His lamb in His tender care and to bless the faithful efforts of Henrik's parents to bring him up in the Lord's training and admonition.

NEW YEAR'S EVE GATHERING: Pastor Schuetze is hosting a fellowship gathering at the parsonage tomorrow evening following the 7:00 pm worship service. All are welcome to attend. Food and refreshments will be served. (Chili will be the main course.)

PASTOR WILL BE OUT OF TOWN beginning January 2 taking vacation days to visit family in Minnesota. He plans to return to Colorado on January 8. In an emergency you may reach him at this number (720-465-4809) or through an elder (their numbers are listed on the first page of the Church Directory).

THANK YOU: Dear members of St. Paul, thank you for all the expressions of Christian love and kindness you have shown towards me this Christmas season, and through the year. I am thankful for the opportunity God has given me for serving in your midst. May He bless you all in the coming new year! Pastor Schuetze.

JANUARY BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO . . .

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lauren Clark, Jan 3 | Jim Wamboldt, Jan 16 |
| Krista Morrison, Jan 7 | Bryan Garvin, Jan 18 |
| Tristan Christopher, Jan 7 | Landon Scow, Jan 18 |
| Julie Whitmer-Wright, Jan 11 | Crystal Ruegge, Jan 19 |
| James Wright, Jan 14 | Louise Rutherford, Jan 24 |
| Jaydin Peters, Jan 14 | |

"The Kinship Committee would like to offer our sincerest thanks for your generous responses to our recent request for sponsors. We praise the Lord for this generous outpouring of support! All of the *Direct* Sponsorships have now been filled, and we have begun a waiting list for anyone who would like to directly sponsor a seminary student or orphan in the future. *Group* Sponsorships are still available, in which you, an individual, can contribute to larger pools of support for various groups overseas, such as The Children in Need in Togo and the two schools in Kenya. You can also always donate to the Kinship General Fund which is used to support those three groups, the medical needs of orphans, and widows of former pastors. If you are interested in contributing to a Group Sponsorship or the General Fund and have any questions, please contact us at kinship@clclutheran.com. Thank you! Blessings in Christ, (Kinship Committee member) Pastor Sam Rodebaugh"

CALL NEWS: Edward Starkey, pastor of Resurrection Lutheran, Corpus Christi TX, has accepted the call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran, Red Wing MN.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS

DECEMBER 31 - JANUARY 5

Mon The Book of **Joel** voices God's troubled heart, for human sins of the present are prelude to God's penalties in the future—so listen up (1:2-5)! God had a whole menagerie of penalties lined up for His disobedient people: a plague of locusts followed by infertile seed (1:17-18) and prairie fires—all of which clanged like a fire-alarm: *Repent! Rend your heart! Return to the LORD your God!* Get your act together, every one of you, for then (and only then) will God relent, sending rain and renewal (2: 18-27).

Tues 2:28-32 Both rain and renewal would prelude the extra-special blessing of another deluge from heaven—an outpouring of God's own Spirit, so that youngsters and old-timers would become God's spokespersons in the New Testament era. The Holy Spirit used the Apostle Peter (Acts 2:17-21) to explain that Joel's prophecy was fulfilled on Pentecost. *Then those who gladly received his word were baptized, and about 3,000 souls were added!*

Wed 3:12-14 What is meant by the *Valley of Jehoshaphat* and *the Valley of decision*? In Moses' day, the valley between Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim was chosen by God for a showdown with His people (Deut.11:26-29)—which set the stage for the Last Judgment, where God decides (makes the decision) between those who are His own and those whom He does not recognize.

Thurs Amos: What was wrong with Syria, Philistia, Phoenicia, Edom, Ammon, and Moab? Their religion was wrong, and their morality was worse; the Jews were just as bad, for they had squandered God's great mercies (ch. 3). Will your/my obituary reveal a heart for God and God's business (ch. 4)? Sham religion will not help (ch. 5-6). Without wrath, mercy loses its punch (ch.7).

Fri Amos 8:11-14 Hunger is good and famine is better, for famine will drive people out of their homeland, foreigners will be converted, and that miracle will whet the Jews' appetite for the LORD, too. The apostles understood how this worked during their time of grace (Acts 15:13-17). Praise the LORD!

Sat The book of Obadiah is only one chapter long and is difficult to locate in the history of the Jews, but it focuses on God's judgment upon the Edomites, descendants of Esau, for sitting on the fence when their cousins, Jacob's descendants, needed their help. That was the sin of omission, the sin of refraining from doing what God wants you to do. Who would not be scared to have God say to you: *As you have done, it shall be done to you; your reprisal shall return upon your own head* (15)? In contrast, God promises to salvage His faithful remnant, *and the kingdom shall be the LORD'S* (17-21). Hwy. 2018 has closed, and the open road of 2019 stretches out before us; Lord, with Your Spirit keep us humble, faithful, and loving as we travel home.