

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO

*You, child, will be called
the prophet of the Most High;
to give knowledge of salvation
to his people by
the forgiveness of their sins*

Luke 1.76-77



**2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 8, 2019**

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)

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Thomas Schuetze, pastor (303-428-5524)

Ed Chiappetti, president – Mike Sprengeler, SS Superintendent

ORDER OF WORSHIP: SERVICE OF THE WORD

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

- ◆ Pre-service Devotion: Psalm 130 (pew bible, p.551)
- ◆ The Hymns: 340, 332, 343, 705 (tan hymnal)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Malachi 3:1-4, John 1:1-17
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 40

Sermon Text – Luke 2:4-7

THE MESSAGE OF ADVENT IS “COME”

TODAY: OUR SAVIOR RESPONDS: “I COME!”

- ◆ Offering of Our Hearts and Gifts
- ◆ Prayer & the Lord’s Prayer
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (705, tan hymnal)

† † †

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 – Malachi 3:1-4

1 “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. 2 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. 3 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, 4 and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

Psalm of the Day – From Psalm 40

P I waited patiently for the LORD:

C He turned to me and heard my cry.

P He put a new song in my mouth:

C A hymn of praise to our God.

P Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust:

C Who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.

P Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders you have done:

C The things you planned for us, were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare.

P Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD:

C May your love and your truth always protect me.

P Be pleased, O LORD, to save me:

C O LORD, come quickly to help me.

Second Lesson – John 1:1-17

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. 6 There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’” 16 From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Sermon Text – Luke 2:4-7

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David;) 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. 6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. [KJV]

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today (12/8) 8:00 am Elders' Meeting
8:30 am Choir Practice
9:30 am Worship Service
10:45 am Children's Christmas Eve Service Practice
10:45 am Christmas Potluck
Christmas Baskets Assembly, following potluck (see note below)
Sat 10:00 am Children's Christmas Eve Service Practice
Sun (12/15) 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.14,21 (10:00–11:30 am)
- Choir Practice: Sunday, Dec.15,22, 8:30 am
- Children's Christmas Eve Service: Tuesday, Dec.24, 6:30 pm
- Christmas Day Service: Wednesday, Dec.25, 9:30 am
- NY's Eve Communion Service: Tuesday, Dec.31, 7 pm
- NY's Eve Gathering at the parsonage: Tues., Dec.31 8:15 pm
- Installation service for Pastor Timothy Wheaton at Prince of Peace, Loveland: Sunday, January 12, 4:00 pm

SERVING US AT GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

- Organist: Jeana Kettner
- Ushers: Bob Rankin, Don Claeys
- Elder: Mike Sprengeler

IN OUR PRAYERS: Ed Scott, who is undergoing therapy at the PowerBack Rehabilitation Center in Lakewood. + Gene Wamboldt who is hospitalized at St. Anthony's Medical Center. + Lisa Sprengeler, who is recovering from hip replacement surgery. + May the Lord tenderly care for His children.

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

BASKETS: Today is also the day for preparing Christmas baskets for St. Paul members 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 14, from 10:00 to 11:30 am. The children's service is scheduled for Tuesday, December 24, at 6:30 pm.

THANKS TO ALL who gave of their their time, talent, and energy for decorating the Lord's house last Sunday. Everything looks great! May the decorations serve as a reminder of the gift God has given us in the Savior and the preparations we are to make to receive Him into our hearts this Christmas, also as we look forward to His coming again in glory on the Last Day.

DIRECTORY UPDATES: A new St. Paul Directory will be printed soon for the new year. Please check your listing in the 2019 Directory to confirm that your contact information is up-to-date. Please inform the pastor of any changes. Thank you!

SYNOD NEWS

- **Calls:** The CLC Call Committee for Educational Institutions has called Pastor John Hein to serve as professor at Immanuel Lutheran College in Eau Claire, WI. ++ Pastor Andrew Schaller has returned the call extended to him by the CLC Board of Missions to serve as the CLC's third foreign missionary.
- **The Board of Regents** invites nominations for the office of President of Immanuel Lutheran College. The current term of Professor Steven Sippert concludes on June 30, 2020. He has requested that he not be considered for another term. We thank him for his faithful service in this key administrative function at our campus. All pastors, professors, male teachers, and voting members of the CLC are entitled to nominate a man from the faculty of Immanuel Lutheran College to serve a two-year term beginning July 1, 2020. Nominations are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight February 15, 2020 (extended deadline, letters postmarked February 1, 2020) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: jeb6217@yahoo.com.
- **Immanuel Christmas Concert:** The concert is at Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire on Friday, Dec. 20, at 7:30 pm. This is always a spiritually edifying concert to help a person focus, even in the midst of the busy holiday season, on the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This concert ends the busy finals week for the students as they conclude their first semester of the academic year. We pray the students will safely arrive at their homes in order to enjoy Christmas break with their families.

SUNDAY ADVENT SERVICE SCHEDULE 2019
WITH SERMON TEXTS AND THEMES

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THE MESSAGE OF ADVENT IS "COME"

December 1 – Luke 1:67-79

GOD'S PEOPLE CRY OUT TO THE LORD: "O COME!"

December 8 – Luke 2:4-7

OUR SAVIOR RESPONDS: "I COME!"

December 15 – Luke 2:8-14

THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE: "THE LORD IS COME!"

December 22 – Luke 2:15-20

***THE INVITATION IS GIVEN: "O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL!
SEE IN THE MANGER YOUR SAVIOR AND KING!"***



The patriarchs and prophets longed to see,
Lord Jesus Christ, Your blest nativity.
As once You came to stable rude and bare,
Come to our yearning hearts, and kindle there
Faith's warming glow, that we may greet You then
With head uplifted, when You come again.
Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS
DECEMBER 9-14

Mon Isaiah 11:1-10 has five scenes: Jesus will be born from the stock of Jesse (#1), become matured by the Spirit (#2), and then function as Judge to close this old world (#3). The New World will resemble the Garden of Eden (#4), for the old evil foe has been exiled (Rev. 20:16). Further, people of all nations have been drawn to Jesus (John 8:28, 12:32) during His days on Earth (#5).

Tues Matthew 3:1-12 In those Advent days, God authorized John to proclaim that God's Kingdom had arrived in/with Jesus. But since some unrepentant Pharisees & Sadducees needed rebuke, not approval, John scolded them for their bad attitude and threatened them with axe and fire (7-10). Not one soft word for them, but prediction of flail and fire at the hand of Jesus. Woe!

Wed Romans 15:4-13 God has written the experiences of earlier generations into His record—so that we read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest God's way of training them to be patient (4). God wants us to be patient with one another, just as He has been with us (5). Anything less will tarnish the way we treat one another (6-7). Let's share the blessings Jesus has won for us (8-13)!

Thurs Psalm 130 When a person is drowning spiritually, he will beg for help from above; he is ready to admit that if God keeps a running record, he's sunk (3). That confession puts his case in the hands and heart of the Judge, who has set a record of His own: it's being merciful (4). We see the repentant sinner on his knees, awaiting a verdict (5-6) that exonerates sinners past, present, and future (7-8). This is our condition also; Lord, have mercy on us!

Fri John 1:19-28 Why is it that common folk recognized John for who he was, but professional clergymen didn't? They came with questions, but as long as their interrogation didn't seem to be challenging, John responded in a calm and helpful manner—that he did not claim to be the Messiah, the Elijah of Malachi 4:5, nor the Prophet of Deut. 18:15. Then he turned back to his God-given commission of serving notice that God's Son was walking the earth.

Sat Acts 5:12-16 A few years later, with Jesus enthroned in heaven, His apostles carried on their commission to serve Him by serving others (12)—while clergymen with “skin in the game” hedged their bets (13). Nonetheless, the Holy Spirit salvaged those who could be salvaged (14), and Jesus proved that His representatives were on God's side: urgent care was given as each case required; health care was received—not assembly-line fashion, but one at a time, from Peter or Matthew, Philip or Nathanael, Andrew or Thomas. People who had gone through stressful years with debilitating ailments were brought into the Lord's healing circle so they could endure the stresses of forsaking family and former friends for Jesus' sake and for theirs, too. Amen.