

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO



**3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 15, 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 146 (pew bible, p.558)
- ◆ The Hymns: 344, 347, 349, 705 (tan hymnal)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Micah 5:1-5, Matthew 11:2-11
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 143

Sermon Text – Luke 2:8-14

THE MESSAGE OF ADVENT IS “COME”

TODAY:

THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE: “THE LORD IS 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 – Micah 5:1-5

1 Marshal your troops, O city of troops, for a siege is laid against us. They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod. 2 "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." 3 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. 4 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. 5 And he will be their peace.

Psalm for the Day – From Psalm

P O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy:
C In your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.
P Do not bring your servant into judgment,
C For no one living is righteous before you.
P I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works:
C And consider what your hands have done.
P I spread out my hands to you:
C My soul thirsts for you like a parched land.
P Answer me quickly, O LORD:
C Do not hide your face from me.
P Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love:
C For I have put my trust in you.
P Show me the way I should go:
C For to you I lift up my soul.
P Teach me to do your will, for you are my God:
C May your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

Second Lesson – Matthew 11:2-11

2 When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" 4 Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. 6 Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me." 7 As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? 8 If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. 9 Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written: "I will send my messenger

ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ 11 I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Sermon Text – Luke 2:8-14

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. [KJV]

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today (12/15)	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Children’s Christmas Eve Service Practice
Sat	10:00 am	Children’s Christmas Eve Service Practice
Sun (12/22)	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: 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
- Church Council Meeting: Sunday, January 12, 8:30 am
- Mary/Martha Ladies’ Meeting: Sunday, January 12, 10:45 am
- Installation service for Pastor Timothy Wheaton at Prince of Peace, Loveland: Sunday, January 12, 4:00 pm
- Annual Voters’ Meeting: Sunday, January 19, 10:45 am

SERVING US AT GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

- Organist: Ruth Greening
- Ushers: Bob Rankin, Don Claeys
- Elder: Larry Reed

PASTOR SCHUETZE IS CONDUCTING THE SERVICE today at Prince of Peace Lutheran in Loveland, where he is serving as vacancy pastor. Our thanks to Mike Sprengeler for conducting the service at St. Paul in the pastor's absence.

HEALTH UPDATES: Ed Scott returned home last Wednesday from the PowerBack rehab center in Lakewood. + Gene Wamboldt returned home from the hospital on Thursday. + Lisa Sprengeler continues her recuperation from hip replacement surgery and is doing well + Thanks be to the Lord who brings healing.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE PRACTICE: This Saturday, December 21, from 10:00 to 11:30 am.

CHOIR PRACTICE: Next Sunday, December 22, 8:30 am.

THANKS TO ALL who helped with assembling the Christmas baskets last Sunday, as well as to those who brought food items for the Christmas potluck. It was a grand feast!

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***SUNDAY ADVENT SERVICE SCHEDULE 2019
WITH SERMON TEXTS AND THEMES***

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!"***



DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS

DECEMBER 16-21

Mon Isaiah 35 Since we cannot comprehend the glories of God's heavenly Kingdom directly, picture language is the way to go: Wilderness, wasteland, and desert = this world, while the blossoming rose = spiritual renewal (1-2). Recovery of sight, hearing, speech, and mobility = spiritual renewal, too (3-7). Further, Zion = heaven, prepared for the redeemed, and those ransomed by the LORD shall arrive with singing and with everlasting joy. Quite a picture!

Tues Matthew 11:2-11 John's theology students needed to see Jesus for themselves (as John had already seen) in order to shift their training from John and become Jesus' disciples (2-6). John deserved recognition, for he had done well with his assignment (7-10), yet God has given us more to work with than He had given to John (11), and Advent is a good time to get at it.

Wed James 5:7-11 God copes with our human nature by coaxing us forward, encouraging us to be like grain farmers whose fields are getting ripe for their harvest (7-8). And when we stand before our Judge, we ought not get blind-sided with pettiness, but rather count ourselves blessed for seeing the end result that the Lord, merciful and compassionate, intended (11).

Thurs Psalm 146 God knows we can be distracted from His agenda, so here's a short review: God is successful as Creator, Judge, Sustainer, and Healer of personal and societal damage (5-9), so He has certainly earned superior status in our hearts and lives. (We praise the LORD for eternity, too, v.10).

Fri John 6:60-69 John's students weren't the only ones figuring out if Jesus, the Rabbi from Nazareth, was also the long-awaited Messiah. After His Bible Class in Capernaum, many of Jesus' students shook their heads, turned away, and walked off campus—but twelve stayed on track, for the Holy Spirit had carried them across the great divide, bringing them to believe and be sure that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Hallelujah!

Sat Acts 5:17-32 These bad guys were bound to be stymied, for God can't be beat (17-19), and God's angel easily unlocked the cell-block. What did God have in mind for all parties? First, He proved that the apostles were on His side; second, God had a preaching date for them in the Temple, the place where Bible-believers would assemble for their Advent devotions. Third, the religious bigots would have to compute those empty jail cells into the equation, and evidence was mounting that they were on the wrong side of God's great agenda. You see, God was concerned about them, too, and was granting them repeated opportunities to hear that Jesus was not dead and defunct, but alive and exalted to heaven in order to give repentance to Israelites, and to grant forgiveness to all who surrender. Stay tuned.