

# ***ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH***

**– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –  
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO**



**4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
DECEMBER 22, 2019**

# **ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)

[www.clclutheran.org](http://www.clclutheran.org)

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 72 (pew bible, p.517)
- ◆ The Hymns: 331, 359, 368, 705 (tan hymnal)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 7:1-14, Matthew 1:18-25
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 62

**Sermon Text – Luke 2:15-20**

***THE MESSAGE OF ADVENT IS “COME”***

*TODAY:*

***THE INVITATION IS GIVEN: “O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL!***

***SEE IN THE MANGER, YOUR SAVIOR AND KING!”***

- ◆ 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 – Isaiah 7:1-14

1 When Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it. 2 Now the house of David was told, “Aram has allied itself with Ephraim”; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind. 3 Then the LORD said to Isaiah, “Go out, you and your son Shear-Jashub, to meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Washer’s Field. 4 Say to him, ‘Be careful, keep calm and don’t be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smoldering stubs of firewood—because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and of the son of Remaliah. 5 Aram, Ephraim and Remaliah’s son have plotted your ruin, saying, 6 “Let us invade Judah; let us tear it apart and divide it among ourselves, and make the son of Tabeel king over it.” 7 Yet this is what the Sovereign LORD says: “It will not take place, it will not happen, 8 for the head of Aram is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is only Rezin. Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people. 9 The head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is only Remaliah’s son. If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.” 10 Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, 11 “Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.” 12 But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.” 13 Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

### Psalm for the Day – From Psalm 62

**P** Only God can save me:

**C** And I calmly wait for him.

**P** God alone is the mighty rock that keeps me safe:

**C** And the fortress where I am secure.

**P** Trust God, my friends, and always tell him each one of your concerns:

**C** God is our place of safety.

**P** We humans are only a breath; none of us are truly great:

**C** All of us together weigh less than a puff of air.

**P** Only God gives inward peace:

**C** And I depend on him.

**P** God saves me and honors me:

**C** He is that mighty rock where I find safety. [CEV]

## **Second Lesson – Matthew 1:18-25**

18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” —which means, “God with us.” 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

## **Sermon Text – Luke 2:15-20**

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. 17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. 18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. [KJV]

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

|               |          |   |
|---------------|----------|---|
| Today (12/22) | 8:30 am  | Choir Practice                            |
|               | 9:30 am  | Worship Service                           |
|               | 10:45 am | Children's Christmas Eve Service Practice |
| Tues          | 6:30 pm  | Children's Christmas Eve Service          |
| Wed           | 10:00 am | Christmas Day Worship                     |
| Sun (12/29)   | 9:30 am  | Worship Service                           |

### EXTENDED CALENDAR

- 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 (*see note below*)
- Annual Voters' Meeting: Sunday, January 19, 10:45 am

### SERVING US AT GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

- Organist: Suzannah Miller
- Ushers: Bob Rankin, Don Claeys
- Elder: Larry Reed

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** This Tuesday at 6:30 pm

**CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP:** Wednesday, 10:00 am

**INVITATION:** The members of Prince of Peace Lutheran in Loveland invite the parishioners of St. Paul to attend the installation service of their new pastor, Timothy Wheaton, on Sunday, January 12. The service will be at 4:00 pm and there will be a meal afterwards to which you are also invited.

**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!”***



Christians, awake, salute the happy morn  
Whereon the Savior of the world was born.

Rise to adore the mystery of love  
Which hosts of angels chanted from above;  
With them the joyful tidings first begun  
Of God Incarnate and the virgin's Son.

Oh, may we keep and ponder in our mind  
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind!  
Trace we the Babe, who hath retrieved our loss,  
From His poor manger to His bitter cross,  
Tread in His steps, assisted by His grace,  
Till man's first heavenly state again takes place.

(The Lutheran Hymnal, #84:1,5]

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS DECEMBER 23-28

**Mon Isaiah 7:10-14** When our children memorize the prophecy that the virgin Mary would bear a Son, they learn it by heart—that is, the Holy Spirit implants it into their souls. God was promising a miracle to assure King Ahaz that He was in control of the future—a safe future for Jerusalem and a safe future for everyone via Immanuel (*God-with-us*), our Savior Jesus.

**Tues Matthew 1:18-25** And so it was that God sent forth His Son! Note: If God had not intervened in Joseph's plans, he would have divorced Mary; then Mary would not have joined him on his trip to Bethlehem—which then would not be Jesus' birthplace, which would disqualify Him from being the Messiah of Micah 5:2. God blessed Joseph by correcting him, and He blesses all who kneel in worship at His manger-crib in Bethlehem.

**Wed Romans 1:1-7** This Bible book starts with Christmas, just as our life with-and-under God begins with Christmas. Along with the saints of old, we have been brought to discover Jesus in the prophecies (2) — Jesus, a genuine human descendant of David (3), validated by His resurrection on Easter (4), by whom we have received God's grace and favor (5). [*"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ"* trumps *"Merry Christmas."*]

**Thurs Psalm 24** refreshes us with God's ABC's: God owns planet Earth, all its inhabitants, and all its waters, too (1-2). That's basic . . . as we travel in spirit to Jerusalem (3) and ask ourselves: "Am I an Israelite prepared by repentant dedication to approach God in His Sanctuary (4-6)?" Let us throw open our hearts for the king to enter. Who is this king? The King of glory, the LORD of hosts —hosts that include angels, saints above, and saints below.

**Fri Luke 2:1-20** We enjoy playing this record over and over: God laid the groundwork (1-6) for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem (7), sent His tour choir to a small, sleepy congregation so they could hear the first outdoors Christmas concert (8-11), and God used them to invite others (12) to enjoy His great Christmas present. No wonder they hurried to tell others (20). Hallelujah!

**Sat Acts 5:33-42** People in general are both ignorant about God's Christmas generosity and also insensitive to God's love. Aggressive unbelievers will stifle and/or diminish the true meaning of Christmas (33), whereas a smooth politician like Gamaliel may patronize his colleagues into a moderate stance (34-39). Although our society has gotten more civilized than the church council was in the old days back in ancient Jerusalem, faithful Christians are still on trial in the court of public opinion. Let us *rejoice if we are counted worthy to suffer shame for His name*, and continue *testifying, teaching and preaching that Jesus is the Christ*. Dear God, grant us the Christmas courage of the apostles! Amen!

***FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOUR,  
WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD. LUKE 2:10.***

† † †

The little word ‘you’ should make us joyful. For to whom is the Lord speaking? To wood or stones? No, He is speaking to people. And not only to one or two people, but to everyone.

How then shall we understand these words? Shall we yet doubt God’s love and say: “St. Peter and St. Paul may well rejoice that their Savior has come, but I may not. I am a wretched sinner. The dear and precious treasure is not intended for me”? My friend, if you will say: Jesus is not mine, then I will say: Whose is He then? Did He come to save geese and ducks and cows? You must look here who He is. If He had come to save another creature, He surely would have assumed the likeness of that creature. But now He has been made the Son of Man. And who are you, and whom am I? Aren't we likewise sons of men? Truly we are! Who, then, but men should receive this Child? The angels don’t need Him. The devils don’t want Him. But we need Him and for our sake He was made Man. So it behooves us to receive Him with joy, as we hear the angel say: “There is born for you a Savior.”

Is it not a great and marvelous thing that an angel should come from heaven with such Good News? And that afterwards so many thousands of angels are filled with overflowing joy, which makes them desire that we too should be happy, and should receive God’s grace with thankful hearts? Therefore we should write these words, with flaming letters, in our hearts: “FOR YOU!” and joyfully welcome the birth of our Savior.

—Martin Luther