

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

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



**1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
DECEMBER 27, 2020**

# **ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)**

**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 111 (pew bible, p.542)
- ◆ The Hymns: 374, 546, 700, 937
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 45:20-25, Colossians 3:12-17
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 98

**Sermon Text – Luke 2:25-32**

### ***LEARN FROM SIMEON***

#### ***HOW TO WORSHIP THE CHRIST CHILD***

**Praise Him . . .**

1. As your personal Savior and the Savior of the world.
2. With a devout, God-fearing life.
3. As your Savior and Deliverer from death.

- ◆ Prayer & the Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (937)

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*Large print bulletins are available on the shelf by  
the tract rack or by request from an usher.*

*You may contribute an offering for God's kingdom work by  
putting it in the collection plate located by the back pew.  
There will be no offering collection during the service.*

## TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

### First Lesson – Isaiah 45:20-25

20 “Gather together and come; assemble, you fugitives from the nations. Ignorant are those who carry about idols of wood, who pray to gods that cannot save 21 Declare what is to be, present it— let them take counsel together. Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me. 22 “Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. 23 By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear. 24 They will say of me, ‘In the LORD alone are righteousness and strength.’” All who have raged against him will come to him and be put to shame. 25 But in the LORD all the descendants of Israel will be found righteous and will exult.

### Psalm for the Day – From Psalm 98

P Sing to the LORD a new song:  
C **For he has done marvelous things.**  
P The LORD has made his salvation known:  
C **And revealed his righteousness to the nations.**  
P He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel:  
C **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**  
P Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth:  
C **Burst into jubilant song with music.**  
P Make music to the LORD with the harp:  
C **With the harp and the sound of singing.**  
P Shout for joy before the LORD, the King:  
C **He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.**

### Second Lesson – Colossians 3:12-17

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### Sermon Text – Luke 2:25-32

25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the

parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, 28 he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: 29 “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; 30 for my eyes have seen Your salvation 31 which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, 32 a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.” [NKJV]

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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 NOTE 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.

**SERVING US AT GOD'S HOUSE TODAY**

Organist: Lisa Sprengeler

Ushers: Mark Hartmeister, Bob Rankin

**THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL**

Today (12/27)	9:30 am	Worship Service
Thu	7:00 pm	New Year's Eve Communion Service
	8:00 pm	Fellowship gathering in church basement
Sun (1/3)	9:30 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion (No Sunday School or Bible Class)

**UPCOMING IN JANUARY**

- Undecorating: Sunday, January 10, after the service
- Mary/Martha Ladies' Meeting: Sunday, January 10, 10:45 am
- Annual Voters' Meeting: Sunday, January 17, 10:45 am
- Church Council Installation: Sunday, January 24

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Louise Rutherford, who tested positive recently for Covid, experiencing minor symptoms. She is living in quarantine at her home in Arvada (Morningstar Senior Living). <> Ann Sprengeler, sister of Mike Sprengeler. She also tested positive for Covid and is receiving medical treatment for more severe symptoms at a Waupun, Wisconsin, hospital (in ICU). She is a teacher at Faith Lutheran School in Markesan.

**THANK YOU:** Dear members of St. Paul, thank you for the expressions of Christian fellowship and love you have shown to me throughout the year past and, in particular, this Christmas season through cards, gifts, and words of personal encouragement for my ministry in your midst. *Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.* The Lord Jesus bless and keep you in the coming year of God's grace.  
Pastor Schuetze

**JANUARY BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO . . .**

Tristan Christopher, Jan 7	Landon Scow, Jan 18
Julie Whitmer-Wright, Jan 11	Crystal Ruegge, Jan 19
Jaydin Peters, Jan 14	Louise Rutherford, Jan 24
Jim Wamboldt, Jan 16	

**NEW YEAR'S PRAYER**

Almighty God, I thank You for all the blessings You showered upon me during the past year. Abide with me and bless me each day of the new year. Lead me to trust firmly in You and to dedicate the entire year to You. As I face new opportunities, new challenges, and new problems, guide me to walk in Your ways and carry out Your will. I ask this for the sake of Jesus my Savior. To You belong all honor, glory, and praise. Amen.

**NEW YEAR'S WISH**

What shall I wish thee? Treasures of earth?  
Songs in the spring time, pleasures, or mirth?  
Flowers on thy pathway, skies ever clear,  
Would this ensure thee a Happy New Year?

What shall I wish thee? What can be found  
Bringing thee sunshine all the year round?  
Where is the treasure, lasting and dear,  
That shall ensure thee a Happy New Year?

Faith that increaseth, walking in light;  
Hope that aboundeth, happy and bright;  
Love that is perfect, casting out fear,  
These shall ensure thee a Happy New Year.

Peace in the Savior, rest at His feet;  
Smile of His countenance, radiant and sweet;  
Joy in His presence, Christ ever near,  
These will ensure thee a Happy New Year.

*Frances E. Havergal*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS**  
**DECEMBER 28, – JANUARY 2, 2021**

**Mon Isaiah 45:20-25** Since our world has only two religions, we disavow the false but honor the True, worshiping the LORD God, our Savior Jesus (20-21). We advertise Him (22) because we don't want anyone to end up on the wrong side when God holds court on Judgment Day (23-24). Those who honor and serve Jesus are true Israelites—which is a point that needs to be made (25). [The Holy Spirit clarifies this point in Romans 9:6 and 11:26.]

**Tues Luke 2:25-40** God's Spirit blessed Simeon, a true Israelite who had been waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and he loved Jesus (25-32). Indeed, the hopes and fears of all the years met in Jesus (cf. #647 in *The Lutheran Hymnal*). God blessed good old Anna (another true Israelite) likewise, and a few weeks later Jesus' family trekked back to Nazareth, where He grew strong spiritually, learned the Bible, and flourished every way possible. Thank you, Trinity God!

**Wed Colossians 3:12-17** How does God's Spirit impact us today? He not only assures us that we are God's dear children (12), He makes us happy to help one another stay connected (13-14). Since God has won the war, we cherish His peace treaty (15) with humanity, claim it as our own, study it, even set it to music, and carry the banner in Jesus' victory parade (16-17).

**Thurs Psalm 111** As the old year expires, we praise the LORD (1) for keeping His atoms and gravity and magnetism, etc., functional (2) and especially for keeping His covenant of grace and compassion (4-6). We have learned to depend on God during 2020, and we continue to place ourselves in His good hands, depending on His guidance and secure in our redemption (7-9). God deserves everyone's reverence and dedication (9-10). Praise the LORD!

**Fri Genesis 8:20-22** We expect some ups-and-downs during 2021; maybe Covid 19 will get suffocated (maybe not); godly citizens will submit themselves to the governing authorities—but perhaps not, for we humans are naturally perverse (21). In contrast, God pledges to keep our planet orbiting around the sun and rotating on its axis so that greenery will continue to support life on planet Earth (22)—but not forever and ever!

**Sat Acts 19:33-41** Though ours is a small chapter in God's History book, God is making things work for the good of His children. Let us make some deductions from the experiences of the Apostle Paul: To illustrate, if the practice of our religion [which is God's religion] gets us into trouble with society or with our neighbors, we may defend ourselves in court with legal counsel and expect that honest citizens will understand our stance (that the U.S.A. Constitution guarantees freedom of religion) and will appreciate that our religious demeanor is Christlike. Lord, have mercy on us!