

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



**7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
(SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION)
MAY 16, 2021**

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 47 (pew bible, p.504)
- ◆ The Hymns: 491 (1-3), 701, 492, 491 (4)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:16-23

Sermon Text – Colossians 3:1-4

THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN IS A CONTINUAL ASCENT INTO HEAVEN

1. Our highest hopes and desires are directed towards heaven.
2. Our highest hopes and desires will be realized in heaven.

- ◆ Presentation of the Offering
- ◆ Prayer & the Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (491, stanza 4)

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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 – Acts 1:1-11

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” 6 So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Easter Acclamation

- P The Lord is risen!
C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
P God ascends to His throne.
C There are shouts of joy and the blast of trumpets as the Lord goes up.
P The Lord is risen indeed!
C This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.
P By this we know that we abide in God and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.
C And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.
P “See, I am coming soon,” says the Lord.
C “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”
P Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.
C “Surely, I am coming soon,” says the Lord.
P Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
C He has given us of His Spirit.

Second Lesson – Ephesians 1:16-23

16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of

wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Sermon Text – Colossians 3:1-4

1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

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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.

SERVING US AT GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

Organist, Ruth Greening; Ushers, Wayne and Zachary Ruegge

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL

Today (5/16)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
Sun (5/23)	9:30 am	Pentecost Festival Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Class

UPCOMING EVENTS

West Central Delegate Conf, Valentine NE: Tue-Thu, May 25-27

Confirmation Sunday (for Jesse Cornish): Sun, June 6

CLC Convention, Eau Claire WI: Thu-Sun, June 24-27

St. Paul Church Dedication 20th Anniv Service: Sun, Aug 29, 3:00 pm (*see note below*)

IN OUR PRAYERS: Lydia Kettner, who is scheduled to graduate from Immanuel Lutheran High School in Eau Claire, WI this Saturday, May 22. We offer her our hearty congratulations and pray for God's blessing upon her as she arrives at this important milestone in her life. May the Holy Spirit keep her strong in the faith through His Word throughout the duration of her life-pilgrimage stretching into the future.

SPECIAL EVENT THIS SUMMER: 2021 marks the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the St. Paul church edifice (which took place on February 18, 2001). At the April 25 Voters' Meeting a resolution was passed to schedule a special service of praise to God to commemorate this important event in our congregation's history. The date chosen: August 29, 2021; time: 3:00 pm. Be sure to mark this date on your calendar! Our brothers and sisters in Christ of Prince of Peace, Loveland, and Redeemer, Cheyenne, will be invited and there may be a guest speaker.

TWO REMINDERS

- An eMinistry/Website Questionnaire was distributed to St. Paul parishioners last Sunday. A reminder to return your completed questionnaire as soon as possible (you can give it to Pastor, place it in his church mailbox, or mail it to the church). The purpose of the questionnaire is to solicit information from our membership regarding how many are utilizing the devotional materials emailed to our members on a weekly basis and how many are using our Website. This will be helpful to St. Paul Congregation as we seek to minister to the spiritual needs of our membership.
- Volunteers are needed to help with mowing the church lawn in the coming weeks & months of summer. If you're able to help, please sign your name to the mowing schedule posted on the bulletin board.

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SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS COMING DUE

- The time for renewing St. Paul's bulk group subscriptions to the *Lutheran Spokesman* magazine and *Daily Rest* devotion book is drawing near. If you would like to join with others in our congregation to subscribe to one or both of these publications please inform Pastor so he may add your name to the subscription list. If you are already a subscriber, your subscription will automatically be renewed. The annual subscription rate for the *Spokesman* is \$14; for *Daily Rest* (four quarterly issues) it is \$15. To pay for your subscription(s) include the amount in your church offering envelope (or other envelope) earmarked "*Spokesman*" and/or "*Daily Rest*."
- "*The Branches* is a publication designed and published by women of the CLC. It's time to renew, subscribe for the first time, or purchase gift subscriptions for others in your life who may benefit. Mother's Day, confirmations, and graduations are upon us! A subscription makes a great, year-long gift. \$15 for four 24-page issues each year" (for instruction on how to subscribe, see the orange poster on the bulletin board).

SYNOD NEWS & NOTES

1. From Our Foreign Missionary, Peter

“Please keep India and Nepal in your prayers. Both countries are being devastated by covid-19. <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/> Fortunately the state of Andhra Pradesh, where most of our brothers and sisters are located, has not been as touched by this wave (more like a wall) of cases. Tamil Nadu state (where I used to live), has imposed a lockdown until May 24th. We have a number of churches in this state. Bengaluru in Karnataka has also been severely hit. We have about 60 pastors in that area. <> The health care system in India has basically collapsed. You may have seen some of the news. Hospitals are running out of oxygen and people in intensive care are dying as a result. People are trying to find oxygen canisters themselves to bring to their loved ones in the hospital (if they have even been able to find a hospital with a bed available). Many hospitals are putting two patients to a bed. This is especially bad in the rural areas (where a majority of our churches are located). <> Nepal is experiencing an even worse crisis. They are currently number 3 in new case world-wide (behind India and Iran), and this is especially striking because their population is so much smaller! In the recent several days they have reported over 9,000 new cases each day in a country with a population of just under 30 million (India has 1.37 billion). Although it actually ranks 7th world-wide in cases by 1000. <https://kathmandupost.com> has a number of articles. <> As bad as the medical situation is in India, it is worse in Nepal. Please keep these countries, especially our brothers and sisters there, in your prayers.”

2. Women’s Retreat West

“Plans are being made for the 2021 Women’s Retreat West. The dates are September 17-19, 2021, at Chadron State Park near Chadron NE. We will be sending out more information in the near future. If you have questions, feel free to contact Colleen Kalblinger (womensretreatwest@gmail.com) or Candy Ohlmann (ocandice@hotmail.com). We look forward to welcoming you back to Nebraska for a weekend of Christian inspiration, fun, and fellowship” *(from Pastor Paul Nolting)*.

3. CALL NEWS

Pastor Tom Naumann, Mt. Zion, Detroit, MI has returned the call by Redeemer, Cheyenne. <> Pastor Chad Seybt, Morning Star, Fairchild / Trinity, Millston / Peace With God, Onalaska, WI has accepted the part-time call by St. Paul’s, Melrose, WI as part of a now quad-parish.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS MAY 17-22

Mon Acts 1:13-26 Judas had been lost from the select group of apostles (which Peter had been pondering for over a month) so after a short rehearsal of the career of Judas Iscariot and pertinent Scriptures (15-21), he presented a motion for filling the empty position (13-22). Two nominees had the right qualifications, so they put the matter before Jesus to choose (by the process of voting) between the two, and from heaven Jesus selected Matthias.

Tues John 17:6-19 We are eaves-dropping on Jesus while He was begging His Father to fill other gaps when He left—gaps that would be mended by bonding His disciples to His Word (6-8) and God’s saving Name (11-12). They could survive among hostiles in enemy territory (13-16), fortified and armored with God’s reliable Word (17) when they graduated (18-19).

Wed 1 John 4:13-21 God knows every dirty corner of our mind, every stinky centimeter of our character, every crooked streak of our life. Understanding what we are, God still loves us anyway—loves us enough to bear our sins on His own shoulders, reach down and pull us free of Satan’s grip, cuddle and kiss us. We are not afraid of God (17-18), for we know He loves us!

Thurs Psalm 8 God is great as Creator and Preserver of the Universe (1,3), also entrusting us humans with the care for Earth’s living creatures (6-8). *“How Great Thou Art”* (a familiar gospel song) in stanza three gives the best reason for lifting our voices in soaring praise to our great God. *“That on the cross my burden gladly sharing He bled and died to take away my sin. Then sings my soul, my savior God, to Thee, ‘How great Thou art!’”*

Fri Acts 1:9-11 Jesus’ Ascension is put into the record with a dozen words—in contrast to the longer focus on those He left behind. Why this contrast? Because disciples need to focus on the assignments given them on Earth during their time of grace, to prepare themselves and others for Jesus’ return, which we should not only patiently await, but eagerly anticipate.

Sat Acts 26:1-11 Finally a day in court—even if it was only a pretrial hearing! Paul stepped up to the mic, gestured for attention, and set the record straight—that a) his Jewish background was impeccable, b) his religion was founded on God’s promises of the Resurrection (4-8), and c) he did not think Jesus fit either a) or b). In fact, Paul was committed to the belief that Jesus was an impostor and that His followers should be eradicated—so he intimidated them, tortured them until they cursed Jesus, and chased them down when they fled and sought refuge in foreign lands. He had gone totally berserk! Then Jesus stopped him in his tracks.