

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

– Church of the Lutheran Confession –
Lakewood, Colorado



**3rd Sunday in Advent
December 12, 2021**

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

2470 Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80214
(303) 233-5000 – www.denverlutheran.com

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 insert inside front cover of maroon hymnal)

Serving Us At God's House Today

Organist: Suzannah Miller; Usher: Bob Rankin

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 130 (pew bible, p.551)
- ◆ The Hymns: 350, 344, 353 (1-3), 353 (4)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Zephaniah 3:14-17, Luke 3:7-18
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 66

Sermon Text – Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice Always

1. The key to your rejoicing as a Christian.
2. How to express it along the path of your life.

- ◆ Offering of Thankful Hearts
- ◆ Prayer & Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (353, stanza 4)

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

Today's Scriptures

First Lesson – Zephaniah 3:14-17

14 Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem! 15 The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. 16 On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. 17 The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing."

Psalm for the Day – From Psalm 66

P Shout with joy to God, all the earth!:

C Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!

P Praise our God, O peoples:

C Let the sound of his praise be heard.

P He has preserved our lives:

C And kept our feet from slipping.

P Come and listen, all you who fear God:

C Let me tell you what he has done for me.

P I cried out to him with my mouth:

C His praise was on my tongue.

P If I had cherished sin in my heart:

C The Lord would not have listened.

P But God has surely listened:

C And heard my voice in prayer.

Second Lesson – Luke 3:7-18

7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 9 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." 10 "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. 11 John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." 12 Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" 13 "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. 14 Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay." 15 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. 16 John answered them all, "I baptize you with water.

But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” 18 And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

Sermon Text – Philippians 4:4-7

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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A CORDIAL GREETING AND WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS. We are pleased to have you worshipping 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.

This Week at St. Paul

Today (12/12)	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:30 am	Children’s Christmas Eve Service Practice
	10:45 am	Christmas Meal & Baskets Prep
Sun (12/19)	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Children’s Christmas Eve Service Practice

Upcoming in December

- ➔ Children’s Christmas Eve Service: Friday, Dec.24, 6:30 pm
- ➔ Christmas Day Worship: Saturday, Dec.25, 9:30 am
- ➔ NY’s Eve Communion Service: Friday, Dec.31, 7:00 pm

Thanks to Those who Lent a Helping Hand with decking the halls of St. Paul last Sunday. Your expressions of Christian love in working to beautify the Lord’s house in preparation for the approaching festival of His birth is much appreciated!

Student Sponsorship – Our St. Paul Mary & Martha ladies continue to financially support a sem student at the Mt. Horeb Lutheran Bible Institute in Lomé, Togo. The student’s name is Komla Agbayi. The annual cost to support him is \$360 which is due each January. All of our St. Paul members are welcome to give a donation for our sponsorship of Komla. To do so place your gift in a separate envelope marked “Mary Martha Kinship” and place it in the offering plate or give it to the Mary/Martha treasurer, Crystal Ruegge. If you wish to donate with a check, please make it out to “St. Paul Lutheran Church” and write “Mary Martha Kinship” on the memo space. Thank you!

Synod News

Africa Missionary Visitations – Pastor John Hein and Missionary Todd Ohlmann have been visiting our CLC mission fields in Africa. Pastor Hein, who serves as our part-time visiting missionary to Liberia, recently returned from a 2 1/2 week visit to Liberia. You can view his Bible Class presentation about this visit at: <https://clcgracelutheranchurch.org/20211128bc>. <> Missionary Ohlmann has been in Tanzania for about a month. He was scheduled to return home on December 10. You can read about his Tanzania visitation on his blog at: <http://missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com/>

2022 Mission Helper Trip – Missionary Ohlmann reports that there are many new opportunities to do Child Evangelism in Tanzania, especially among the Maasai tribes. The leaders of the CLC-Tanzania and CLC-Zambia are very eager and excited to host volunteers again in 2022. The deadline for applications for the July 2022 Mission Helper Trip to Africa is January 10. Find more information and apply online at: mht.lutheranmissions.org/2022-east-africa.

Immanuel Lutheran Christmas Choral Service – A choral service featuring the choirs of Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary will be live-streamed online Friday, December 17, 2021 at 7:30 pm Central Standard Time from Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire WI. To watch, go to www.eauclairemessiah.com and click on the "Live Stream" button (lower left). If you miss the live stream, a replay will be available to view for one week following the concert. This year’s theme is *The Martin Luther Christmas Book* and will feature songs of the season along with devotional readings selected from Luther’s Christmas sermons.

St Paul Offerings Through December 5, 2021			
St Paul Contributions	2021 YTD	Budget YTD	Annual Total
General	\$63,275	\$70,071	\$74,361
Building Fund	\$445		
Sunday School			
CLC Contributions			
CLC General Fund (CBP)	\$7,760	\$7,538	\$8,000
ILC Building Projects (AC/Dorm)	\$270		
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	\$745		
Kinship	\$0		
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	\$1,380		
Total	\$73,875	\$77,609	\$82,361

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions December 13-18

Mon Zephaniah 3:14-20 Judah (the South) was sliding downhill morally, and that bothered God enough to engineer a novel way to rescue them. First, give them a good taste of His wrath—to humble them—and then display His generous kindness toward them (14-15), giving them reason to relax (16-17); **then** gather them home (18-20). History repeats itself because humans keep tussling with God for control of the steering wheel. Lord, have mercy!

Tues Luke 3:7-18 Baptizer John told people how God wanted them to behave (16). **If** their hearts were in it, they could be humanitarian (11), generous (12-13), and law-abiding (14). More importantly, **if** they took to heart John's message about Messiah, He would cleanse them (15-16) and bring them home at harvest time—the final Advent/Judgment Day (17).

Wed Philippians 4:4-7 We have good reason to *rejoice* all the time, for we are stocked with God's gracious gentleness (5), unfazed amid this world's craziness (6), and proactive in prayer (6). Bottom line: Since we are straight with God via Christ Jesus, we can face life with calmness and strength (7).

Thurs Zephaniah 3:8-13 is prelude to Monday's Bible selection, and lest we leave this Word of God in the dust of yesteryear—note that God has always had serious business with humanity (8). Serious because we always need spiritual revival (9) of heart and soul (10-12). How else could sinners—or a degenerate nation—be transformed to *speaking no lies, no deceitful tongue be found in their mouth, and no one shall make them afraid* (13)? God grant it!

Fri Mark 6:14-29 The Herodian dynasty lasted for four generations, and this pervert had a split personality; he seemed open to both good and evil. We would like to ignore him, but God has a lesson embedded in the account: Evil people will murder God's messengers/missionaries prior to His Advent. Herod allowed lust and pride to overpower his weak conscience (20), and John became a martyr. This scenario is being replayed in our world today.

Sat Philippians 4:2-3 As we celebrate Jesus' first Advent, we are looking forward to His Advent return – and for good reason, of course. Perhaps one reason easily passed over is that in heaven we shall meet people we have never known on Earth. People like Euodia, Syntyche, Clement, and others whose names are written in the Book of Life. We know the names of a handful more—as recorded in the ledger of Romans 16:1-16, Colossians 4:7-17, 2 Timothy 4:19-21, Titus 3:12-13, etc, etc. Note: Apostle Paul listed these names very close to the black-list of those who hindered the Advent messengers and/or should be avoided because they do not serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Come quickly, Lord Jesus, lest we wither on the vine!