

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

– Church of the Lutheran Confession –
Lakewood, Colorado



3rd Sunday in Advent – December 11, 2022

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

2470 Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80214

www.denverlutheran.com

Find us on Facebook at: "St Paul Ev. Lutheran Church"

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: Suzanne Miller – Ushers: Bob Rankin, Wayne Ruegge

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 111 (pew bible, p.542)
- ◆ The Hymns: 350, 346, 354 (1-3), 354 (4)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-11
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 146
- ◆ Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (liturgy insert, p.15)

Sermon Text – Matthew 11:1-11

What Are Your "Advent Expectations"?

Expect Jesus your King to come to you ...

1. To supply your soul's highest need.
2. To lay your doubts to rest.
3. To elevate you to a lofty status in His kingdom.

- ◆ Offering of Thankful Hearts
- ◆ Prayer & Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction / Closing Hymn (354, stanz 4)

Today's Scriptures

First Lesson – Isaiah 35:1-10

1 The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, 2 it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. 3 Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; 4 say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." 5 Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. 6 Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. 7 The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. 8 And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it. 9 No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, 10 and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Psalm of the Day – From Psalm 146

P Praise the LORD, O my soul:
C **I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**
P Do not put your trust in princes:
C **In mortal men, who cannot save.**
P When their spirit departs, they return to the ground:
C **On that very day their plans come to nothing.**
P Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD his God:
C **The Maker of heaven and earth.**
P The LORD gives sight to the blind:
C **The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.**
P The LORD watches over the outcast:
C **And sustains the fatherless and the widow.**
P The LORD remain faithful forever:
C **He upholds the cause of the oppressed.**

Second Lesson – James 5:7-11

7 Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. 9 Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! 10 Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Sermon Text – Matthew 11:1-11

1 After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. 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.

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A Warm Welcome to Our Worship Guests!

It is our prayer that your faith is strengthened today by the preaching of our Lord's pure Word and by the psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs that our Scripture-based liturgy offers every week. St. Paul is a member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC). The CLC is represented by congregations throughout the United States and Canada, with affiliated churches in Africa, India, and neighboring nations. All of our churches confess the Bible to be the inspired and unerring Word of God. We invite our Guests to record their visit by signing the Guestbook and to come worship with us again.

This Week at St. Paul

Today (12/11)	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Christmas Meal & Baskets Prep
Sun (12/18)	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Worship Service

Extended Calendar

- Children's Christmas Eve Service: Saturday, Dec.24, 6:30 pm
- Christmas Day Worship: Sunday, Dec.25, 9:30 am
- New Year's Eve Communion Service: Saturday, Dec.31, 7:00 pm
- CLC Cooperative Budget Plan (CBP) Presentation: Sunday, Jan.15, 10:45 am
- Mary/Martha Ladies' Meeting: Sunday, Jan.22, 10:45 am
- Annual Voters' Meeting: Sunday, Jan.29, 10:45 am

In Our Prayers: Doug Tiefel and Karen Thompson who will be united in holy wedlock this Saturday, December 17, in a private ceremony here at the church.

Synod News & Notes

Call News: Pastor Rob Sauers of Luther Memorial Church, Fond du Lac WI, has accepted the call to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven FL.

Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary will present a Choral Christmas Service entitled *Christmas Memories* at Messiah Lutheran, Eau Claire, WI this Friday, December 16, at 6:30 pm Mountain Time. Video streaming information will be published at ilc.edu/tv as it becomes available. "The service Tchaikovsky is themed around a carol by 17th century English composer Thomas Ravenscroft and explores what we are to remember about the birth of Jesus and what that birth means for us. Senior seminary student Mr. Jonah Albrecht will deliver devotional thoughts recalling that first Christmas night as well as lead us to consider thoughtfully our own memories of Christmases past. Music will include works by Hubert Parry, J. S. Bach, Piotr Tchaikovsky, John Rutter, and others. Arrangements of familiar carols include *In the Bleak Midwinter, The First Noel, Where Shepherds Lately Knelt, Silent Night,* and others" (choir director, Prof. David Schaller).

The ILC Building Committee has produced promotional materials for the new ILC Fieldhouse and Fine Arts Center project, which was approved by the 2022 CLC Convention. The Building Committee presentation and brochure are available in our narthex. The PDF presentation can be seen at www.tinyurl.com/ilcbp-pres. An impressive video "walk-through" of the future facilities can be seen at www.tinyurl.com/ilcbp-walkthru. Additional publicity materials will follow, including an online presence and progress reports. Contributions toward this project should be identified as "ILC Building Project."

Call for Eastern Nebraska Contacts: "Beginning in January of 2023, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of Hecla, SD, will be sponsoring monthly services in Lincoln, NE, the third weekend of every month. We held four services this past year, attendance ranging from 12 to 24 with interest in more regular offerings. If you know of any family, friends, and/or former CLC members living in the greater Eastern Nebraska/Western Iowa region, please send their contact info to pastor_daub@hotmail.com. No lead is too far-fetched. Some of the current group have resulted from the most surprising connections!"

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

December 12-17 '22

Mon Matthew 3:1-6 John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness, as Isaiah had long ago prophesied he would, and John even dressed similar to Elijah (cp2Kg1:8), whom Malachi had said to look for. But the most striking thing about John was his message: The King is near! Prepare for His kingdom by repenting, turning to God for forgiveness.

Tues Matthew 3:7-11 The coming King would not rule on the basis of human strength or goodness, but on the basis of God's goodness and strength. Therefore those who came to John satisfied with their own ways of entering the King's presence were actually following the old serpent. But the Messiah is coming to do away with sin! This is no time to be clinging to it!

Wed 2 Timothy 4:5-8 As Paul is nearing the end of his ministry, he "passes the torch" to young Timothy. He reminds him of the righteousness which comes not from within, but from the Lord as a crown. This is what lies ahead for Paul and for all who have loved the Lord's appearing (v8).

Thurs Isaiah 40:1-2 God's answer to the suffering of His people was double comfort. Speaking of their future hope as already accomplished, the prophet announces the end of their warfare and double forgiveness for the sins which had brought it all on.

Fri Isaiah 40:3-5 The voice calls for smoothing the path for the coming of the Lord. When God's children look upon Christ's coming as glorious (v3), they will want no obstacle to hinder or divert it. For this coming one is "our God" (v3), through the forgiveness which He brings.

Sat Isaiah 40:6-8 The most beautiful and accomplished of humans is short-lived, like grass, and soon withers and fades. Likewise humanity's greatest achievements are like flowers blooming for a day or two in the meadow. But the Word of "our God," by which the heavens were made, brings us pardon, peace, and life forever in Christ.

The Advent Wreath



The Advent wreath is rich in symbolism, and as such it aids our worship as it reinforces our hope in the ultimate coming of our Lord. The wreath is covered with evergreen. Just as this species of tree is always green, so our hope for eternity is always alive because it rests upon the living Christ. The wreath is also in the form of a circle, which has no beginning and no end. What better way to picture that our life with God is everlasting.

The lighted candles are symbolic of the light of Christ and His Gospel, which alone can lift us out of our sin & spiritual darkness. The 4 candles remind us of the 4000 years of waiting for Christ by the Old Testament world. Each of the 4 candles has been assigned a special name with special significance.

The Prophecy Candle — is the 1st candle lit the first week in Advent. It is symbolic of the long years of waiting during which the prophets, inspired of God, kept alive the hope that the Son of God was coming to redeem His people from their sins.

The Bethlehem Candle — is the 2nd candle lit. It symbolizes the preparations being made for the coming of the Christ-child. The prophecy in Micah 5:2 that foretold Jesus' birthplace at Bethlehem may seem to be a minor revelation, but it shows how God prepared even the least detail for the coming of Christ.

The Shepherds' Candle — is the 3rd candle lit and reminds us of our responsibility to share the Savior and His promises. The shepherds left their task and went with haste to see the Christ-child; then they returned to tell others about the good news of the Savior.

The Angels' Candle — is lit the 4th week of Advent. It reminds us of the activity of the angels before and after Jesus' birth, bearing messages, ministering, protecting, praising; they will be with Jesus at His final coming on Judgment Day, to gather the nations.

The light these candles put forth seems small; so does the gospel at times. But to those in lonely darkness, it is the powerful light which shows the way to Heaven.

