

# St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

– Church of the Lutheran Confession –  
Lakewood, Colorado



**F**OR the message about  
the cross is foolishness  
to those who are perishing,  
but to us who are being  
saved it is the power of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
**January 29, 2023**

# **St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**

2470 Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80214

[www.denverlutheran.com](http://www.denverlutheran.com)

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

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 insert inside front cover of maroon hymnal)*

Serving Us At God’s House Today

Organist: Carly Mess; Usher: Bob Rankin

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 1 (pew bible, p.481)
- ◆ The Hymns: 523, 913, 587, 526
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Daniel 3:13-25, Matthew 5:1-12
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 111
- ◆ Confession of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed (liturgy insert, p.15)

## **Sermon Text – 1 Corinthians 1:26-31**

### ***God’s Epiphany In Christ Proclaims True Wisdom***

1. The value of worldly wisdom is fickle and short-lived.
2. God’s wisdom in Christ lasts, and benefits us, *forever*.

- ◆ Offering of Thankful Hearts
- ◆ Prayer & Lord’s Prayer
- ◆ Benediction / Closing Hymn (526)

# Today's Scriptures

## First Lesson – Daniel 3:13-25

13 Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, 14 and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? 15 Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?” 16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. 18 But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” 19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual 20 and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. 21 So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. 22 The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, 23 and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace. 24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?” They replied, “Certainly, O king.” 25 He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.” 26 Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!” So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, 27 and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

## Psalm of the Day – From Psalm 111

P Great are the works of the LORD:

**C They are pondered by all who delight in them.**

P Glorious and majestic are his deeds:

**C And his righteousness endures forever.**

P He has caused his wonders to be remembered:

**C The LORD is gracious and compassionate.**

P The works of his hands are faithful and just:

**C All his precepts are trustworthy.**

P They are steadfast for ever and ever:

**C Done in faithfulness and uprightness.**

P He provided redemption for his people:

**C He ordained his covenant forever.**

P The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:

**C All who follow his precepts have good understanding.**

### **Second Lesson – Matthew 5:1-12**

1 Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them, saying: 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Matthew 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

### **Sermon Text – 1 Corinthians 1:26-31**

26 Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.”

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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 (1/29)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School
	10:45 am	Annual Voters Meeting
Sun (2/5)	9:30 am	Worship Service with installation of Church Officers
	10:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Class

### **Extended Calendar**

- February 12 – Elders Meeting, 8:30 am
- February 22 – Midweek Lenten Service Schedule begins with our Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm

### **Annual Voters Meeting**

Today after the service. Agenda items include: setting of our St. Paul 2023 Worship Calendar, election of church officers, setting of our CLC Cooperative Budget Estimate, annual pastor's and treasurer's reports, decision on continuing an alternate worship liturgy on a once a month basis, among other things. Pray for God's blessing on our discussions, deliberations, and decisions, that they may serve for His praise and the blessing of His Church.

**Notes from Last Sunday's Mary/Martha Ladies Meeting:** Elections: Lisa Sprengeler, president; Ruth Claeys, vice-president; Jo Blakey, secretary; Crystal Ruegge, treasurer. < Care baskets will be sent in February to our three high school/college students living away from home. < The ladies will serve as a Kinship sponsor for a student at the Bible Institute in Togo for another year. Cost: \$360. < A Palm Sunday brunch will be served by the men after the service on April 2.

**In Our Prayers:** Carrol Rankin, who is recovering from an ankle injury she sustained in a fall at home last week. <> Cory Drehle, pastor of Berea Lutheran, Sioux Falls. He was hospitalized last week with a heart ailment. <> Ethel Eastridge who is continuing her recovery from a stroke. She is doing well. <> Naomi Peters who is recovering from injuries sustained in an auto accident (broken sternum). Son Nicholas also received minor injuries. Under God's blessing he is doing well (already back at school). <> Briana Stavnes, granddaughter of Willa Mae Janssen, of Buffalo MN. Under God's blessing she was dismissed from the hospital last week after receiving treatment for an asthma attack. <> *"I lift up my eyes to the hills— where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth."*

### Synod News

- CLC President, Pastor Michael Eichstadt, has resigned from his office for health reasons. Following is the note he sent to CLC pastors last week:

*"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps" (Prov. 16:9). While we make plans; thankfully, the Lord directs and sometimes redirects them according to His good will. I have been particularly aware of that over the past couple of months. I thank the Lord for His care for body and soul, and I thank you for your prayers in my behalf. By God's grace, I'm feeling well and back to my normal routine. However, after much prayer and thought, it is clear that, due to health considerations, it is time to step down from the CLC presidency. My heart condition will require ongoing monitoring and treatment, and it seems prudent to take things down a notch when it comes to workload and time commitment. I praise God for His gift of calling me to serve as president over the past years. What a privilege it has been to work with our CLC boards and officers in directing the kingdom work among us! It has been a joy to see from the "front row" how the Spirit is working to bring in more of the Savior's harvest from all corners of the world. The Word does not return empty. It truly is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. Thank you for your kind words and encouragement over the years, and especially for your prayers that the Spirit would bless our partnership in the gospel. May He continue to do so until the Savior returns. Vice-President Mike Wilke and I have spoken. We are making plans to meet soon in order to facilitate a smooth transition of duties."*

- Ruby Kirby, long-time member of Prince of Peace, Loveland, was called home to be with the Lord on November 30. A memorial service will be held at Viegut Funeral Home in Loveland on Sunday, February 19 at 2:00 pm. Following the service a reception is planned. Everyone is invited to attend. Ruby was living in the Chattanooga TN area at the time of her death, where she had moved last July to be near family.
- Pastor Andrew Schaller, Marquette MI, accepted the call to Luther Memorial Church, Fond du Lac WI. <> Pastoral vacancies currently exist at the dual parish Ascension Lutheran, Tacoma, and Redemption Lutheran, Lynnwood WA; Messiah Lutheran, Eau Claire WI; and Marquette.
- A reminder that information on the new building project (gymnasium and fine arts center) at Immanuel Lutheran College is available in the church entry in the tract rack (leaflets provided by the ILC Building Publicity Committee). There is also a poster on the bulletin board providing information about this project
- The CLC Tourney Band will assemble and perform at the CLC Grade School Basketball Tournament in Eau Claire, WI on Saturday, March 11. Register band players (grades 5-8) at [clctourneyband.weebly.com](http://clctourneyband.weebly.com). Music is available on the website. Basketball players and non-basketball players are welcome! Our one practice will be during that morning (time TBA) with a performance at noon. Please send questions to: [music@thelaus.com](mailto:music@thelaus.com).

**Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions**  
**January 30 – February 4, '22**

**Mon Matthew 7:24-29** Jesus closes His “Sermon on the Mount” with a call to hear and follow His words. It is a matter of standing or falling when the rain, floods, and winds beat against us. The crowds are astonished at His authoritative teaching, and we behold the glory of the Word made flesh (Jn1:14).

**Tues Romans 8:1-9** Walking according to our sinful flesh leads to death, but the Spirit who testifies of Jesus Christ leads to life. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God (v8), but there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (v1).

**Wed Ezekiel 33: 10-16** The prophet is sent with a message for those who see the terrible spot their sins have put them in: turn to me and live! It is not our righteous acts that save us when we sin, but our Savior God who has no pleasure in the death of the wicked (v11).

**Thurs John 5: 39-47** Jesus speaks to those who refuse to come to Him (v40), who will not believe His words (v47). They do not see His glory because His glory does not come from people (v41). They claim to follow Moses, but if they did they would also follow Him of whom Moses wrote (v46).

**Fri 2 Corinthians 3:12-18** When God gave the Law through Moses, he returned with a glorified face. The glory of the Law, however, was only for a time, but the grace and truth that came by Jesus Christ far outshines the fading glory of Moses. And we all, with unveiled face, behold the glory of the Lord (v18).

**Sat Exodus 3:1-6** The Lord appeared to Moses in a burning bush to make him leader of the Children of Israel. It was an awesome sight and a great calling. But Moses, who would lead the exodus of his people from Egyptian bondage would still depend on the exodus that Jesus would lead (Lk9:31) out of sin, death, and hell.