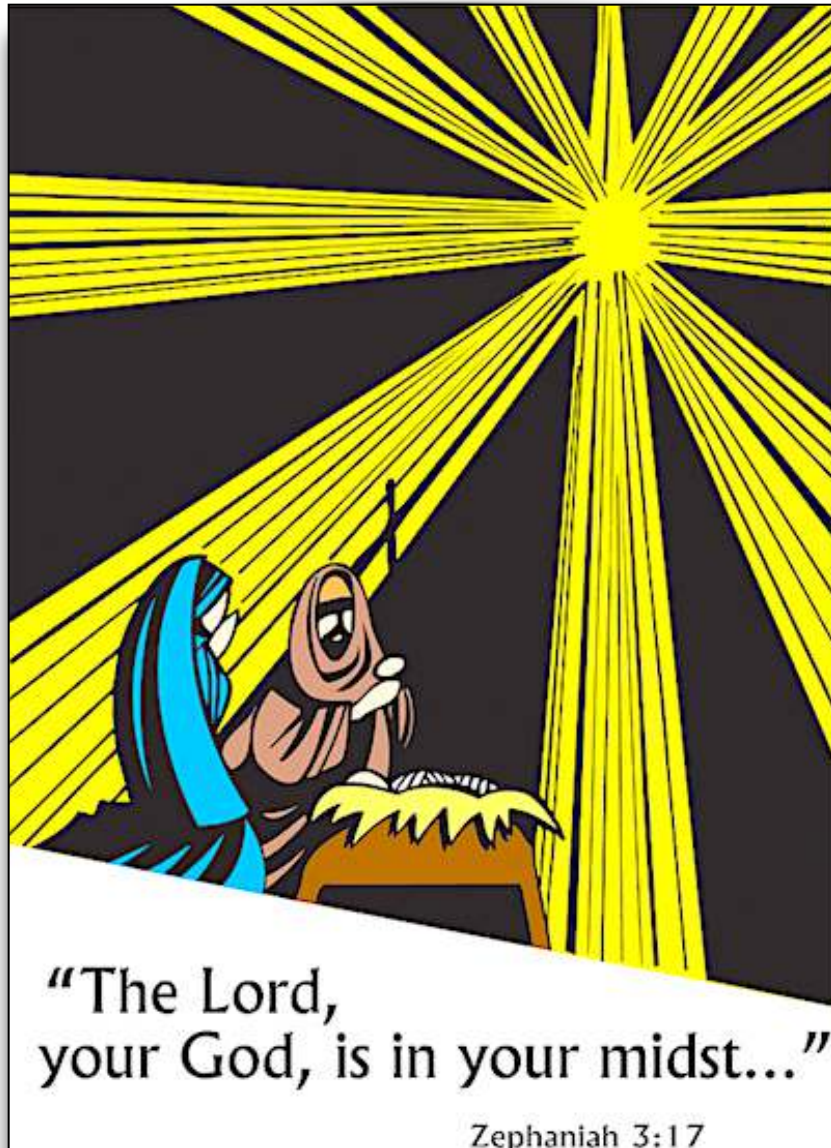


ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO



**3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 16, 2018**

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)

Larry Reed, president – Mike Sprengeler, SS Superintendent

Ruth Greening, Suzannah Miller, Lisa Sprengeler, organists

ORDER OF WORSHIP: SERVICE OF THE WORD

(printed on liturgy insert inside front cover of maroon hymnal)

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 130 (pew bible, p.551)
- ◆ The Hymns: 357 (1-6), 702 (tan hymnal), 349, 30 (page 7)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 92

Sermon Text – Zephaniah 3:14-17

HOW A KING CLEANS HOUSE

1. He sweeps away all enemies.
2. He lets his guest relax.
3. His housekeeping brings rejoicing.

- ◆ Offering of Our Hearts and Gifts
- ◆ Prayer & the Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (30, printed on page 7)

† † †

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.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

First Lesson – Philippians 4:4-7

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

Psalm for the Day – From Psalm 92

P It is good to praise the LORD:

C And make music to your name, O Most High,

P To proclaim your love in the morning:

C And your faithfulness at night.

P For you make me glad by your deeds, O LORD:

C I sing for joy at the works of your hands.

P How great are your works, O LORD:

C How profound your thoughts!

P The senseless man does not know:

C Fools do not understand.

P That though the wicked spring up like grass and all evildoers flourish:

C They will be forever destroyed.

P But the righteous will flourish like a palm tree:

C They will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;

P Planted in the house of the LORD:

C They will flourish in the courts of our God.

P They will still bear fruit in old age:

C They will stay fresh and green,

P Proclaiming, "The LORD is upright:

C He is my Rock and there is no wickedness in him."

Second Lesson – Luke 3:7-18

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? 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. 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." "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. 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." The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. 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. 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." And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

Sermon Text – Zephaniah 3:14-17

Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem! 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. On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. 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."

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today (12/16)	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Children's Christmas Eve Service Practice
Sat	10:00 am	Children's Christmas Eve Service Practice
Sun (12/23)	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Children's Christmas Eve Service Practice

EXTENDED CALENDAR

- Children's Christmas Eve Service: Monday, Dec.24, 6:30 pm
- Christmas Day Service: Tuesday, Dec.25, 9:30 am
- New Year's Eve Communion Service: Monday, Dec.31, 7 pm
- New Year's Eve Fellowship Gathering at the Parsonage: Monday, Dec.31, 8:30 pm

SERVING US AT GOD'S HOUSE DURING DECEMBER

- Ushers: Don Claeys, Ed Chiappetti
- Elder: Mike Sprengeler
- Communion Assistant: Ed Chiappetti

IN OUR PRAYERS: Doug Tiefel who underwent shoulder surgery last Monday. He is recuperating at home. We ask the Lord to grant him healing according to His gracious will.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE PRACTICE: This Saturday, December 22, from 10:00 to 11:30 am. The children's service is scheduled for next Monday, December 24, at 6:30 pm.

A HEARTY THANK YOU TO ALL who prepared items for last Sunday's Christmas potluck. The food was delicious! Thanks also to all who helped with the assembly of the Christmas baskets (and all who brought items to fill them).

DIRECTORY UPDATE: Adam & Shawna Fritzler, 556 Prairie Dr., Milliken, CO 80543. Phone: 970-578-9154.

HEALTH UPDATES

- Carol Sandeen: "Carol & I praise the Lord for graciously blessing her with successful chemo treatment these past 4 months for breast cancer. We request the thanksgiving prayers of our church family and ask that they continue for the Lord's blessing on her surgery this Monday to remove the cancer tissue, as He may will, and also on the radiation treatments after surgery recovery. Gratefully yours in Christ, Carol & Jim (Sandeen)"
- Cindy Hartman (wife of Pastor Jay Hartman of Coloma, MI, who is suffering from severe migraines): "They wanted Cindy to try one more medication - something new. If that doesn't help it's back to Mayo for the stimulator. So far no help but they are doubling the medication - so we're still hopeful. Mayo - though on the cutting edge - is not 'sold' on the stimulator for migraines and are hesitant to try it until this new medication has had the time it needs to work. In migraine applications it's been hit and miss. There's a lot involved in implanting them in the head. So, we wait and see. Jay"

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS DECEMBER 17-22

Mon God's Book of Hosea repeats the message of other preachers sent by God, for He loved them enough to scold, warn, and nudge them to repent. Hosea's marriage (1:2-3) was God's way of illustrating two facts: a) Israel was filthy, but b) God intended to salvage the next generation for a better future (10-11). **Chs. 2-3:** After God's cleansing, Israel would be like a prostitute regaining her virginity—which doesn't happen except by a miracle. Now, since God is good at miracles, there was hope for both Israel and Judah.

Tues ch. 4: If illiterate people didn't catch on to the (above) analogy, God spelled it out: Israel was ruined by their own choices. **Ch. 5:** In case the literate clergy and bigwigs didn't catch on, God bolstered the prosecution's case with compelling evidence that they were guilty as charged.

Wed Ch. 6: Convinced? Okay then, *let us return to the LORD, for He has torn, but He will heal us . . . On the third day He will raise us up.* [Note on 6:6: Not sinning in the first place removes the need to apologize to Him in the second place.] **Chs 7&8:** Israel had slapped God in the face, and that sort of conduct would boomerang. *They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind* means: Be careful about "seeding" a cloud, because you may be triggering a tornado.

Thurs Ch. 9: *Therefore the days of punishment have come; the days of recompense have arrived. Woe to them when God departs from them!* **Ch. 10:** That's what the Babylonian Captivity was all about. Since *they have plowed wickedness* (against God and their own souls), *therefore they will reap a harvest of punishment.* [How much sin is enough to deserve punishment?]

Fri ch.11: In pleading His case against the defectors but for His dear children, God's heart churned with emotion (8). Compelled by His own nature, He arrived at His verdict (9) of acquittal. **Ch 12** presents His case against Judah (the South), whose origins (2-6) and blessings vindicated God's treatment. Deduction: What was good for Israel would be good for Judah, too.

Sat chs. 13 & 14: Will Christmas ever come? Yes, for God affirms, *There is no savior besides Me* (13:4). And Easter will come too: *I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. O Death, I will be your plagues! O Grave, I will be your destruction.* God is emphatic about treating them tenderly: *I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, for My anger has turned away from him. I will be like the dew to Israel. He shall grow . . . his branches shall spread; and his beauty shall be like an olive tree* (14:4-6). It took a lot of effort on God's part, but He persisted in spite of temporary set-backs, redeeming Israel/us from all our iniquities, proving that the *ways of the LORD are right* -- and Christmas is right on schedule.

1 Rise, a - rise! Rise, a - rise! Chris - tians, rise to
 2 Oh, re - joice! Oh, re - joice! Christ has come as
 3 Crown him King! Crown him King! His ex - alt - ed

greet your King. O - pen wide the gates be - fore him; Let the glad ho -
 long fore - told. The Mes - si - ah long - ex - pect - ed, The in - car - nate
 name con - fess. From his heav'n - ly throne de - scend - ing, Je - sus, Lord our

san - nas ring; Haste to wor - ship and a - dore him. Hark! The watch - man
 Word be - hold! Though by earth - ly kings re - ject - ed, Hail him Lord of
 right - eous - ness, Brings us joy and peace un - end - ing. Oh, let heart and

on the moun - tain cries: Rise, a - rise! Rise, a - rise!
 all with might - y voice. Oh, re - joice! Oh, re - joice!
 tongue his prais - es sing! Crown him King! Crown him King!

CLC MISSION OPPORTUNITIES PRAYER LIST – DECEMBER 10, 2018

Nepal

- It was recently reported by our brother in Kathmandu that more than one hundred non-Nepalese individuals were accused of violating the newly enacted anti-conversion laws. These individuals had their visas revoked and were deported for participating in religious activities and evangelism. Our brothers and sisters in Christ in Nepal have not yet had any trouble but they are being very careful with their outreach efforts. The first deportations were reported in a local [Nepali newspaper](#) back in July. Pray that the Lord will protect our brothers and sisters in Christ in Nepal as they continue to proclaim God's saving word with boldness and confidence.

Myanmar

- Pastor Charles in Yangon reports that the ongoing [The Rohingya Crisis](#) has brought a lot of international political pressure causing a rather un-settled political climate in Myanmar. These struggles have caused much hardship for many of God's children that he serves. Pray that the Lord will provide for all the needs of His people and give them the strength to persevere as they continue to serve the Lord in the midst of these trials.

Nigeria

- Islamic extremists, who until recently have been concentrated in the north of Nigeria, have been moving into and causing problems in the areas where the NCLC are located. Just recently [four Catholic priests in the area were kidnapped](#) and held for ransom. Also, [violent Islamic protests in the capital city of Abuja](#) resulted in the Nigerian Army opening fire on the protestors and killing several. In addition to all of this, local and national elections are scheduled for early 2019 with several Muslim candidates running for offices. Many fear violence if these Muslim candidates aren't elected. Pray!
- Rejoice in the Lord's provision as two men who have successfully completed the five-year seminary course of the NCLC Luther Bible Institute will graduate, be ordained, and assigned to a congregation on December 15! Pray that the Lord will bless their ministry!
- There are six men who have applied to enter the seminary beginning in January. Their applications are being reviewed by the faculty. If all of the men are approved for enrollment, this will be one of the largest classes to begin the five-year seminary course. Pray that the Lord will bless the students and faculty in their work and that He will provide them all that is necessary to prepare themselves for the public ministry.
- Our brothers and sisters in Christ of the Nigeria-CLC are facing a variety of challenges as they work together to provide both spiritual and bodily care for orphaned children. Please pray the Lord to provide them the wisdom, compassion, and all that is needed to carry out this important work.

India

- It was recently reported by our brothers of the CLCI that they are facing increased persecution by Hindu extremists. Just a few weeks ago the CLCI was conducting outreach evangelism in a village. During the evangelism effort several Hindu extremists began shouting and disrupting the event. A few individuals began to record their actions on their cell phones as evidence. The Hindu extremists then turned physically violent and began to beat those in attendance and to destroy

the tent and equipment. When all was said and done several individuals were injured and cell phones, a laptop, a projector, and sound equipment was either destroyed or stolen. All of this was reported to the local police but there no one expects anything to come of it. Please pray the Lord to replace any discouragement and doubt that this may have caused among His children with the Joy of salvation and a firm committed to be faithful to the Lord even unto death.

Missionary to India

- Plans are for our missionary to return to India in January. Pray the Lord to bless his return to India to continue the work of training and encouraging men to be faithful preachers and teachers of God's saving word.

Tanzania

- The leaders of the CLC-Tanzania continue to make preparations for classes to begin in February at the newly established Wartburg Lutheran Seminary in Arusha, Tanzania. There are currently twelve men from four districts who are planning to study God's word as they prepare for the ministry. Pray for both students and teachers that the Lord will bless this effort and that He will provide all that is necessary for this important work to go forward.

Uganda

- Pastor Daniel Mugeni of Iganga, Uganda is recovering from a serious hernia operation. He is out of the hospital and recovering at home.

Visiting Missionary

- Missionary Ohlmann recently returned home from Nigeria a few days before Thanksgiving. He is thankful for the opportunity to be home with his family through the Christmas season. He is scheduled to leave on January 9 for a nine-week visitation trip that will take him to Tanzania, Zambia, Myanmar, Nepal, and Bangladesh. Pray for safe and uneventful travel and God's blessings on the opportunities to train and encourage men to be faithful preachers and teachers of God's word. Pray also for his wife and family while he is away.

CLC Online Theological Studies

- Continue to pray for individuals in the following countries who are studying God's Word through email correspondence courses as they continue to train to be faithful preachers and teachers of God's saving Word:
 1. Senegal, West Africa
 2. Democratic Republic of Congo, Central Africa
 3. Togo, West Africa
 4. Liberia, West Africa
 5. Bangladesh, South East Asia
 6. Zimbabwe, Africa
 7. Myanmar, South East Asia
 8. Tanzania, East Africa
 9. Kenya, East Africa

The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them. (Psalm 145:18-19)