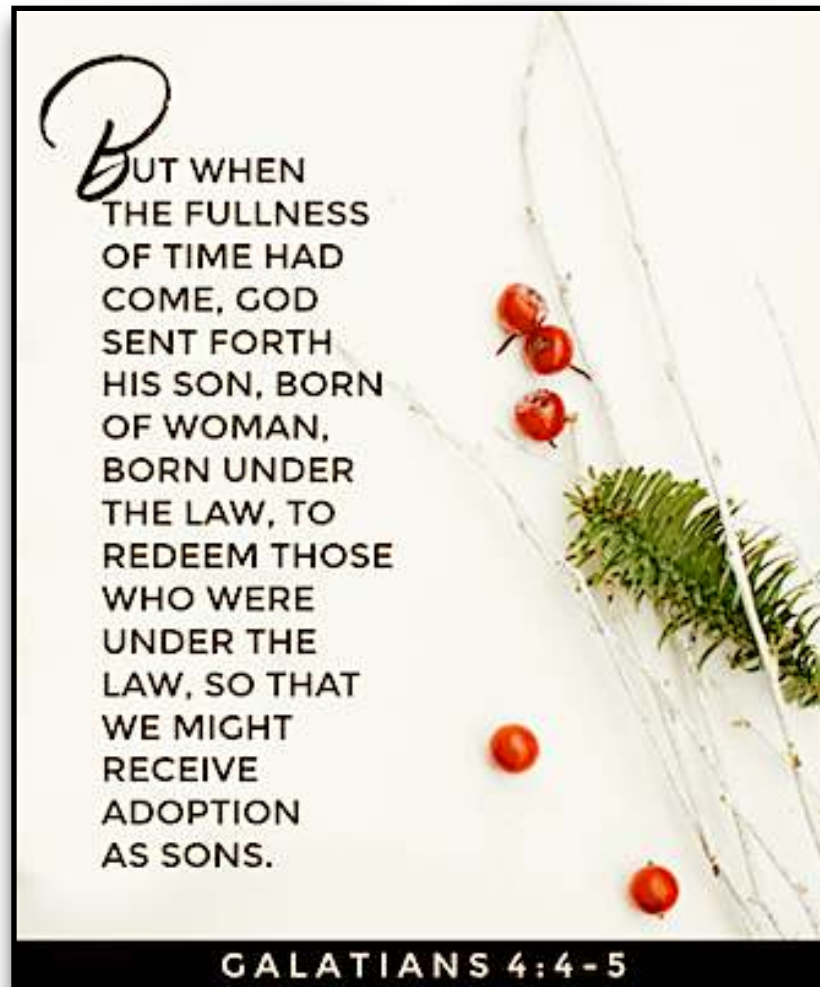


# ***ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH***

– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –  
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO



**1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
DECEMBER 29, 2019**

# **ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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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 liturgy insert inside front cover of maroon hymnal)*

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 2 (pew bible, p.481)
- ◆ The Hymns: 383 (1-3), 362, 546, 383 (4-5)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 63:7-9; Matthew 2:13-15,19-23
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 98

**Sermon Text – Galatians 4:1-7**

### **WITH THE BIRTH OF JESUS GOD USHERED IN A NEW ERA OF WORLD HISTORY**

1. An era no longer dominated by the Law.
2. But permeated by the precious Gospel.

- ◆ Offering of Our Hearts and Gifts
- ◆ Prayer & the Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (383, stanzas 4-5)

† † †

**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 – Isaiah 63:7-9

7 I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the LORD has done for us— yes, the many good things he has done for the house of Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses. 8 He said, “Surely they are my people, sons who will not be false to me”; and so he became their Savior. 9 In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

### Psalm for the Day – From Psalm 98

**P** Sing to the LORD a new song:  
**C** For he has done marvelous things.  
**P** The LORD has made his salvation known:  
**C** And revealed his righteousness to the nations.  
**P** He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;  
**C** All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.  
**P** Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth:  
**C** Burst into jubilant song with music.  
**P** Make music to the LORD with the harp:  
**C** With the harp and the sound of singing.  
**P** Let the sea resound, and everything in it:  
**C** The world, and all who live in it.  
**P** Let the rivers clap their hands:  
**C** Let the mountains sing together for joy.  
**P** Shout for joy before the LORD, the King:  
**C** He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

### Second Lesson – Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” 14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.” | 19 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt 20 and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.” 21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, 23 and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: “He will be called a Nazarene.”

### Sermon Text – Galatians 4:1-7

1 Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, 2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. 4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under

the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. [NKJV]

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today (12/29)	9:30 am	Worship Service
Tues (12/31)	7:00 pm	New Year's Eve Communion Service
	8:15 pm	Fellowship gathering at the parsonage
Sun (1/5)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School (David Anointed King, OT 38) (Bible Class will resume on Jan 26)

### UPCOMING IN JANUARY

- Church Council Meeting: Sunday, January 12, 8:30 am
- Mary/Martha Ladies' Meeting: Sunday, January 12, 10:45 am
- Installation service for Pastor Timothy Wheaton at Prince of Peace, Loveland: Sunday, January 12, 4:00 pm (*see note below*)
- Annual Voters' Meeting: Sunday, January 19, 10:45 am

### SERVING US AT GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

- Organist: Ruth Greening
- Ushers: Bob Rankin, Don Claeys
- Elder: Larry Reed

### DURING JANUARY

- Ushers: Ed Chiappetti, Joshua Ruegge
- Elder: Larry Reed
- Communion Assistant: Ed Chiappetti

**NEW YEAR'S EVE GATHERING:** Pastor Schuetze is hosting a fellowship gathering at the parsonage on Tuesday evening following the 7:00 pm worship service. All are welcome to attend. Finger food and refreshments will be served.

**INVITATION:** The members of Prince of Peace Lutheran in Loveland invite the parishioners of St. Paul to attend the installation service of their new pastor, Timothy Wheaton, on Sunday, January 12. The service will be at 4:00 pm and there will be a meal afterwards to which you are also invited.

**NOTE TO ST. PAUL COMMUNICANTS:** Holy Communion will be celebrated in January one week later than usual, on Sunday, January 12. Also, a reminder that private communion is available from the pastor any time upon request.

**PASTOR WILL BE OUT OF TOWN** beginning January 2 visiting family in Minnesota. He plans to return to Colorado on January 6. In an emergency you may reach him at this number (720-465-4809).

**THANK YOU:** “Dear parishioners of St. Paul, I would like to thank you for the many expressions of Christian fellowship and love you have shown towards me this Christmas season and throughout the year, through gifts you have shared and by personal words of encouragement. God bless you all in the coming new year of His grace. Pastor Schuetze”

**JANUARY BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO . . .**

Lauren Clark, Jan 3	Jim Wamboldt, Jan 16
Krista Morrison, Jan 7	Bryan Garvin, Jan 18
Tristan Christopher, Jan 7	Landon Scow, Jan 18
Julie Whitmer-Wright, Jan 11	Crystal Ruegge, Jan 19
Jaydin Peters, Jan 14	Louise Rutherford, Jan 24

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**SYNOD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ❖ The Project Kinship Committee is seeking sponsors to support overseas orphans and seminary students. Opportunities are expanding in these important fields but can only expand as fast as our financial support allows. One example is the Congregation Confessionnelle Luthérienne Du Congo (CCLC). The CLC-sponsored seminary in the Congo is hoping to expand their enrollment to fifteen students from their current enrollment of seven. There are eight men waiting to enroll, but we need sponsors to make that enrollment possible. This particular sponsorship is \$40/month. For more information please see, call, email, or text Dan Roehl— danroehl@hotmail.com / 507-381-2042).
- ❖ 2020 CLC Mission Helper Trip: The maximum number of applications have been accepted for the trip to Nepal this summer. If you would like to have your name placed on a waiting list, please contact Missionary Todd Ohlmann at thohlmann@gmail.com.

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**LITURGICAL NOTES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

The season of Christmas lasts for twelve days, from December 25 through January 5. With Christmas we begin to look at what God has done for us through His Son, Jesus Christ. Through Him our sins have been forgiven and washed away. The paraments up front are white, symbolizing the glory and holiness of our newborn Savior.

**A NEW YEAR’S PRAYER**

Almighty God, I thank You for all the blessings You showered upon me during the past year. Abide with me and bless me each day of the new year. Lead me to trust firmly in You and to dedicate the entire year to You. As I face new opportunities, new challenges, and new problems, guide me to walk in Your ways and carry out Your will. I ask this for the sake of Jesus my Savior. To You belong all honor, glory, and praise. Amen.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS**  
**DECEMBER 30 – JANUARY 4**

**Mon Isaiah 63:7-9** Following upon the Questions-and-Answers of vv.1-6, we slow down for this commentary, which is theological and evangelical; we love to dwell upon it. Breathe deeply, dear Christian, inhale God's lovingkindness, His great goodness and mercies, for He has become our Savior from sin, death, and the power of the Devil. In His love and pity He redeemed us; He bore us through Advent and carried us to Bethlehem. Let us praise the Lord!

**Tues Matthew 2:13-15,19-23** Sometimes an angel must take control of the steering wheel to avoid a catastrophe; to avoid Herod's madness, he steered Jesus' family into Egypt, chosen centuries earlier as their safe haven (Hosea 11:1). When Herod's time of grace had expired (19), God directed the family homeward, detouring Judea in the South and heading north into Galilee (20-22) before settling again in Nazareth – just as God had planned all along (23). God's gracious New Year for our sorry world was right on schedule.

**Wed Galatians 4:3-7** We don't understand everything about the fullness of the times, but when God had fit the Roman Empire into its slot, aligned all His prophecies for fulfillment, settled accounts with Judaism, and prepped true Israelites to receive His New Year, it was time to have Jesus retire the debt of humanity so that we might be served with God's adoption papers. Via Jesus our status has been changed from slaves to dear children, entitled to share in our Father's huge estate, holdings, and liquid assets. Thank You, dear Jesus!

**Thurs Psalm 2** During 2020 humans will still enjoy being rebels against God (1-3), which God doesn't overlook (4-5). He has His own way of exercising His superiority—a "no-win" for rebels (9-11)—but due to His lovingkindness, He grants an undeserved "win" for those who surrender. Blessed are those who entrust themselves, body and soul, life and livelihood to Jesus! Amen!

**Fri John 1:1-14** The Kingdom of God preceded Creation of the Universe, for without God as Creator, there would be no Universe—just as a house cannot come into existence without a builder (1-5). John the Baptizer rates a parenthetical comment (6-8) before we return to Jesus as the Creator of the Universe (9-10), the spiritual center of humanity and epicenter of Jewry. In other words, Jesus has changed everything (14). Let's enjoy His rulership!

**Sat Acts 6:1-7** In congregational life, it should not be a hard choice between serving in the soup kitchen or serving in the gospel ministry. When everyone in the Jerusalem congregation understood, they agreed and got on board; that's how Christians cope with problems. We expect that everyone got fed, for the congregation flourished; the Spirit also convinced some slowpokes among the Jewish clergy that Jesus was the answer to their prayers (7). Lord Jesus, in this 2020 year of grace, send forth Your Spirit to rescue more souls!