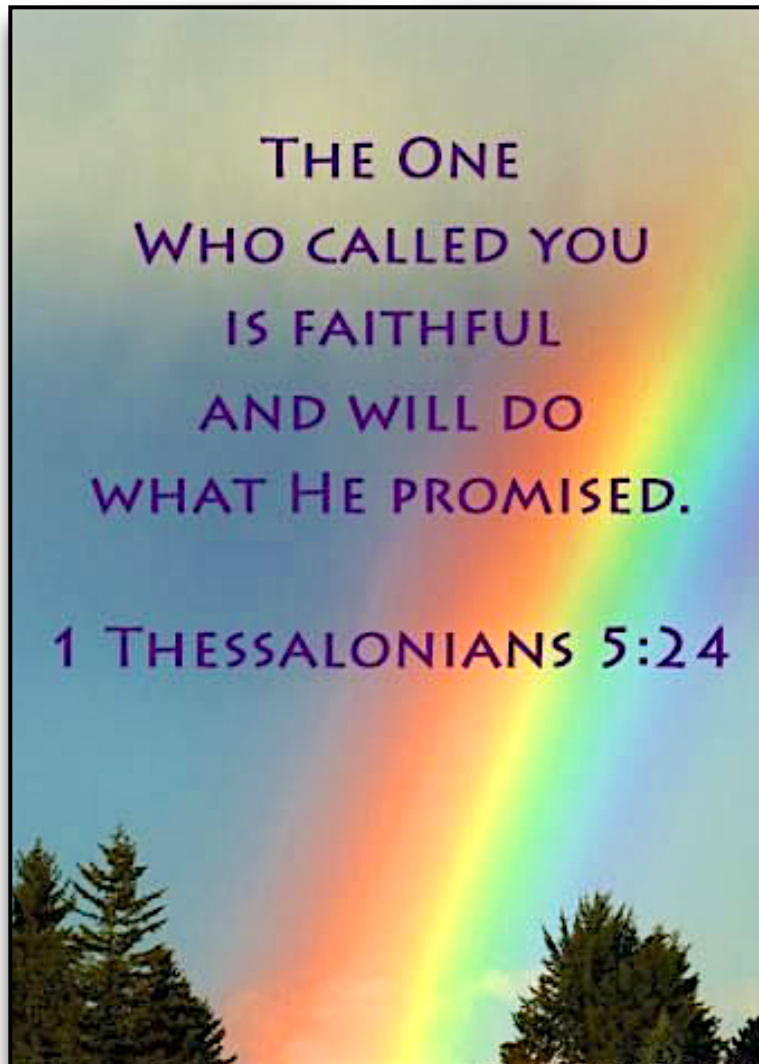


***ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH***

– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO



**3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 13, 2020**

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)

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 119:89-96 (pew bible, p.547)
- ◆ The Hymns: 350, 62*, 352, 705**
*(*printed on page 7 of bulletin; **tan hymnal)*
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 61:1-3,10-11; John 1:6-8,19-28
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 71

Sermon Text – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

YOUR GOD WILL KEEP YOU FOREVER TRUE

In Faithfulness He Will Keep You . . .

1. Always living your faith.
2. Always remaining in His Word.
3. Always relying on His power to keep you.

- ◆ Prayer & Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (705, tan hymnal)

† † †

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

*You may contribute an offering for God's kingdom work by
putting it in the collection plate located by the back pew.
There will be no offering collection during the service.*

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

First Lesson – Isaiah 61:1-3,10-11

1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. | 10 I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

Psalm for the Day – From Psalm 71

P In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge:
C Let me never be put to shame.
P Rescue me and deliver me in your righteousness:
C Turn your ear to me and save me.
P Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go:
C For you are my rock and my fortress.
P Since my youth, O God, you have taught me:
C And to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.
P Even when I am old and gray:
C Do not forsake me, O God.
P Till I declare your power to the next generation:
C Your might to all who are to come.

Second Lesson – John 1:6-8,19-28

6 There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. | 19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. 20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ." 21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." 22 Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" 24 Now some Pharisees who had been sent 25 questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among

you stands one you do not know. 27 He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.” 28 This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Sermon Text – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

16 Be joyful always; 17 pray continually; 18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not put out the Spirit’s fire; 20 do not treat prophecies with contempt. 21 Test everything. Hold on to the good. 22 Avoid every kind of evil. 23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

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

SERVING US AT GOD’S HOUSE TODAY

Organist: Carly Meyer

Ushers: Mark Hartmeister, Bob Rankin

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL

Today (12/13)	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Worship Service
Sun (12/20)	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Children’s Christmas Eve Service Practice

UPCOMING DECEMBER EVENTS

- ◆ Children’s Christmas Eve Service: Thursday, Dec.24, 6:30 pm
- ◆ Christmas Day Worship: Friday, Dec.25, 9:30 am
- ◆ New Year’s Eve Communion Service: Thursday, Dec.31, 7:00 pm

THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HELPED with the assembly and wrapping of the Christmas baskets last Sunday. Eight baskets were prepared for sharing with St. Paul members unable to regularly attend our worship services (two as gifts for friends of St. Paul). *“For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise ... and do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased”* (Hebrews 13:14-16).

CALL NEWS: Pastor Del Maas was led to return the call to serve the dual parish of Redeemer, Bowdle and Zion, Ipswich, SD.

PROJECT KINSHIP – ON THE RISE! As endeavors to spread the Gospel overseas continue to increase, so do our opportunities to support these endeavors. Of the current 113 overseas seminary students, there are currently five who do not have stateside sponsors. Please consider becoming a sponsor through the CLC *Project Kinship* program. The cost for this particular sponsorship is \$35/month (\$420/year). There will also be sponsorship opportunities for the overseas orphan population in the near future. *Project Kinship* would also welcome folks willing to be put on the “wait list” for these sponsorships (they require a similar financial commitment). For more information contact *Project Kinship* committee member, Dan Roehl (danroehl@hotmail.com or 507-381-2042).

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FROM MISSIONARY TODD OHLMANN

- *“There’s been quite a bit of progress on the (seminary classroom) building project in Nepal. Raju texts me with an update and a few pictures every other day or so. With Raju's permission, I posted several pictures and a couple of videos on my blog today. If you are interested, you can see them here: <http://missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com/2020/12/progress-in-nepal.html>.”* (Raju is a spiritual leader of our foreign-affiliated mission, Himalayan Church of the Lutheran Confession – Nepal)
- *“With an application deadline quickly approaching and still so much uncertainty concerning international travel, vaccination requirements and availability, and government restrictions on gatherings in Nepal due to the pandemic, the decision has been made to cancel the 2021 Mission Helper to Nepal that was tentatively scheduled for July with the prayer that things will be back to normal enough by this time next year to make plans for 2022.”*

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NOMINATIONS FOR ILC PROFESSOR: The following nominations have been received to fill the professorship vacated by the impending retirement of Professor John Reim at the end of the 2020-21 academic year: Pastors Paul Krause, Neal Radichel, Rob Sauers, and David Schaller. All comments from members of CLC congregations regarding these candidates are to be received by email or letter by midnight Dec.29, 2020 (letters postmarked Dec.24, 2020) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: jeb6217@yahoo.com.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS
DECEMBER 14-19

Mon Isaiah 61:1-3,10-14 Who needs *good tidings*? Those who are poor in spirit, who need healing for a broken heart, and are hoping for reprieve from prison. In ancient Israel, everyone looked forward to the Jubilee year, when God turned society back to square one. These are spiritual matters dressed in earthly garb (1-3), of course, and spiritually minded people understood the picture language—that Jehovah had *clothed them with the garment of salvation, the robe of His own righteousness*. Praise the LORD!

Tues John 1:6-8,19-27 God gave John a great privilege—to hold high the torch for Jesus (6-8) and explain that his own role in God’s great enterprise (19-26) was subsidiary to the person and work of Jesus. So, pay attention to Jesus and don’t confuse anyone else as a possible contender for God’s glory!

Wed 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 Are these mandates? Recommendations? They are exhortations, urging us to be spiritually minded. For our own good (and for the good of others) God is reminding us that we can rejoice always, we can pray habitually, we can give thanks in every situation. How come? Because God is our ally, devoted to our welfare and dedicated to hold us tight all the way to Doomsday (23). We can depend on God (24)! Hallelujah!

Thurs Psalm 71 Since God, the LORD/Jehovah, is the basis for our prayer (1-3), we plead for all sorts of deliverance—just as He has done in the past (5-6), is still doing in the present (7-8) and will do in the future (9-11). Adversaries should cringe (12-13) before Him who supports us (14-16) as we advance through life (17-18). Summary: Since You, O LORD, are for me (19-21), I am speaking up for You (22-24). Please, advance Your Advent into this world!

Fri Luke 4:18-21 Six centuries earlier, Jesus had prompted Isaiah to introduce Him to His people, and now (at the right time and in the right place) Jesus stepped forward. Why? To reveal that Isaiah had Jesus in mind when he outlined the Mission of the Messiah. Were the Hebrews ready for His arrival? Some were; most were not. Same story today. Lord, have mercy on us!

Sat Acts 19:21-32 Who wouldn’t be upset if your life were so intertwined with your religion that your status in society, your friendships, and your job security depended on it? We understand. We’ve been there, too, but on the other side of the fence, for we are integrated with God and God’s religion. Back to the future: In old Ephesus Paul was targeted for his Jesus/Advent preaching, for idolaters were outraged that he had the audacity to diss their favorite female goddess and patron. Satan knew how to deceive them with a sex symbol, and he is still pulling that dirty trick on our money-and-sex-idolatrous society today. Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

62

Is. 69: 20

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

Latin author unknown, c. 1100

Tr., John M. Neale, 1851, 1859, ab.

♩ ♪ ♫ ♬ ♭ ♮

Veni, Emmanuel

Plain-song melody, c. 1200

1 Oh, come, Oh, come, Em-man - u - el, And ran-som cap-tive
 2 Oh, come, Thou Rod of Jes - - se, free Thine own from Sa-tan's
 3 Oh, come, Thou Day-spring from on high, And cheer us by Thy
 4 Oh, come, Thou Key of Da - - vid, come And o - pen wide our

Is - - ra - el That mourns in lone-ly ex - - ile here Un-
 tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell Thy peo - ple save And
 draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom-y clouds of night And
 heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high And

til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em-
 give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em-
 death's darkshad-ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em-
 close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em-

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el.
 man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el.
 man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el.
 man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el. A-men.