

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO



7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 11, 2021

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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 WORD & SACRAMENT *(printed on liturgy insert inside front cover of maroon hymnal)*

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 8 (pew bible, p.483)
- ◆ The Hymns: 592 (1-3), 592 (4-5), 725, 523, 588
- ◆ Baptism: *Kacen Travis Acker*, son of Travis and Kylee (nee Fritzler) Acker, born June 6, 2021. Sponsor: Dustin Fritzler. Witnesses: Ashley Parkins, Lindsey Saulton, Lisa Ingram, Shawn McMahon, and Charles Bridge.
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Acts 13:13-39,44-48; Mark 2:1-12

Sermon Text – Ezekiel 2:1-5,9-10; 3:3-4

“THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE JOB”

- ◆ Presentation of the Offering
- ◆ Prayer
- ◆ Communion Liturgy (liturgy insert, pp.17-21)
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (588)

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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 – Acts 13:13-39,44-48

13 From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem. 14 From Perga they went on to Pisidian Antioch. On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and sat down. 15 After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the synagogue rulers sent word to them, saying, “Brothers, if you have a message of encouragement for the people, please speak.” 16 Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: “Men of Israel and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! 17 The God of the people of Israel chose our fathers; he made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt, with mighty power he led them out of that country, 18 he endured their conduct for about forty years in the desert, 19 he overthrew seven nations in Canaan and gave their land to his people as their inheritance. 20 All this took about 450 years. “After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. 21 Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. 22 After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’ 23 “From this man’s descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised. 24 Before the coming of Jesus, John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel. 25 As John was completing his work, he said: ‘Who do you think I am? I am not that one. No, but he is coming after me, whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.’ 26 “Brothers, children of Abraham, and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent. 27 The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. 28 Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. 29 When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. 30 But God raised him from the dead, 31 and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people. 32 “We tell you the good news: What God promised our fathers 33 he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: “‘You are my Son; today I have become your Father.’ 34 The fact that God raised him from the dead, never to decay, is stated in these words: “‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.’ 35 So it is stated elsewhere: “‘You will not let your Holy One see decay.’ 36 “For when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed. 37 But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay. 38 “Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. 39 Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses. | 44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. 45 When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and talked abusively against what Paul was saying. 46 Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: “We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. 47 For this is what the Lord has commanded us: “‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’” 48 When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

Psalm of the Day – From Psalm 19

- P The heavens declare the glory of God:
C **The skies proclaim the work of his hands.**
P Their voice goes out into all the earth:
C **Their words to the ends of the world.**
P The law of the LORD is perfect:
C **Giving joy to the heart.**
P The commands of the LORD are radiant:
C **Giving light to the eyes.**
P They are more precious than gold:
C **They are sweeter than honey.**
P By them is your servant taught:
C **In keeping them there is great reward.**
P May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart:
C **Be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Redeemer.**

Second Lesson – Mark 2:1-12

1 A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. 2 So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. 3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. 4 Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” 6 Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, 7 “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” 8 Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? 9 Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins . . .” He said to the paralytic, 11 “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” 12 He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

Sermon Text – Ezekiel 2:1-5,9-10; 3:3-4

2:1 And He said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak to you.” 2 Then the Spirit entered me when He spoke to me, and set me on my feet; and I heard Him who spoke to me. 3 And He said to me: “Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day. 4 For they are impudent and stubborn children. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD.’ 5 As for them, whether they hear or whether they refuse—for they are a rebellious house—yet they will know that a prophet has been among them. | 9 Now when I looked, there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. 10 Then He spread it before me; and there was writing on the inside and on the outside, and written on it were lamentations and mourning and woe. | 3:3 And He said to me, “Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you.” So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness. 4 Then He said to me: “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them.”

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.

SERVING US AT GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

Organist, Jeana Kettner

Usher, Mark Hartmeister

Communion Usher, Ed Chiappetti

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL

Today (7/11)	9:30 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:45 am	Mary/Martha Ladies' Meeting
Sat	8:00 am	Summer Clean-Up Day, till noon
Sun (7/18)	8:30 am	Church Council Meeting
	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Bible Class

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Quarterly Voters' Meeting: Sunday, July 25, 10:45 am
- ◆ Elders' Meeting: Sunday, Aug 1, 8:30 am
- ◆ St. Paul Church Dedication 20th Anniversary Service: Sunday, Aug 29, 3:00 pm
- ◆ Women's Retreat West, Chadron State Park, Chadron NE, Sept 17-19

PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS: The church parking lot will be cleaned, cracks filled, sealed and striped on Thursday, July 29th. There should be no cars in the parking lot on Thursday and no traffic in the lot until Saturday the 31st in order to let everything cure and dry prior to use. Thank you! Questions? See Board of Trustees member, Mike Sprengeler.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE: A special service of praise to our God will be conducted at St. Paul on Sunday, August 29, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, with former pastor of St. Paul, Pastor Delwyn Maas of Mapleton ND, serving as guest speaker. A meal will be served afterwards. Neighboring CLC churches of the Front Range will also be invited.

SYNOD NEWS & NOTES

- ◆ “Pacific NW Family/Youth Camp will be held at Alta Lake State Park in Washington on August 1-5, 2021. Join us for outdoor activities and Christian fellowship around our theme “Keep on Rejoicing” from the book of Philippians. Campers can register either as individual youth (grade 6 thru college) or families. Food and campground costs are included in the registration fee (\$100 for individuals, \$175 for families). Campers will need to bring their own gear (tent, sleeping bag, toiletries, etc.) though help can be given if needed. Find more details and the online registration at: redemptionclc.com/pac-nw-camp/. Questions can be sent to Pastor Mark Tiefel at pastor.redemption@gmail.com” (from Pastor Tiefel).

- ◆ Pastor Stefan Sonnenfeld of Faith, Manchester MO, accepted the call to Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes MI. <> Mrs. Shantel Hocum, a member of St. John’s, Clarkston WA, accepted the call to be the primary teacher at Valley Bible Academy – St. John’s Lutheran Church. <> Pastoral vacancies currently exist at: Eden Prairie MN; Manchester MO; Bowdle/Ipswich SD (dual parish); and Cheyenne WY.

- ◆ Immanuel Seminary Graduate Drew Naumann was ordained and installed at Trinity Lutheran Church, Spokane WA, last Sunday, July 4.

- ◆ Paul and Courtney Agenten, members at Our Redeemer’s, Red Wing MN, have accepted the roles of boys’ and girls’ dormitory supervisors at Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary in Eau Claire WI.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS

JULY 5-10 (catching up from last week)

Mon Lamentations 3:22-37 does not read like a lament but more like self-encouragement, and that's why this passage resonates with us, for we are learning to bear trials patiently (28-30). Knowing our human nature, God prompted Jeremiah to feed our souls with spiritual nutrition. God assures us that He will show compassion as dependably as sunrise; so we can relax, awaiting God's intervention according to His best judgment.

Tues Mark 5:21-24a, 35-43 Jairus staked a claim on Jesus' compassion even before some bad news (35), and Jesus was ready. [Now, watch this:] Jesus claimed that the girl was NOT DEAD but asleep—for that's how God sees it—and sure enough, when He coaxed her to awaken, she got out of bed, waltzed around the room, and headed for the kitchen (39-43). A great day.

Wed 2 Corinthians 8:1-9,13-15 The mother-church in Jerusalem needed a boo\$ from overseas brethren, which Paul was organizing. Now then, if our overseas brethren took up a collection to help us state-side, giving themselves to the Lord first and then giving themselves to us—all to serve God (5)—that would shame us. [How are we doing with our CBP?]

Thurs Psalm 30 When you read this psalm, place emphasis on yourself—stressing that God has lifted ME up, that God has healed ME, that He has brought MY soul up; that He has kept ME alive. Now we're in touch with God's Spirit, who gets into our heart this way and turns our mourning into dancing. Our brain may still be groggy (8-10), but our heart/soul will be singing praises to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Fri Mark 5:25-34 Shoehorned into Tuesday's Scriptures is this episode of an unidentified woman who was too shy to step forward and spell out her problem, yet she had the courage of faith to get in touch with Jesus. What happened next shocked and scared her, but she took courage to tell Jesus her long, sad story. He then blessed her and sent her home with a new lease on life. [We make a suitable deduction to fit our own situation.]

Sat Acts 28:11-16 doesn't seem to contain much spiritual meat, but it proves this: though God's mill grinds slowly, it grinds exceedingly fine. Our travels, layovers, and pit stops all click into their appointed slots (as they should) while God's machinery inches forward hour by hour and day by day. Just imagine how God blessed those soldiers who bivouacked a whole week with Christians (14), then walked side-by-side with other Christians who were thrilled to welcome Paul into their neighborhood and homes. Those soldiers had a lot to think and talk about when they went off duty (16). God was generous with them—as He was with Paul too, of course. Praise the Lord!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS

JULY 12-17

Mon Ezekiel 2:1-5 follows upon the vision that knocked Ezekiel flat on his face (which disabled him), so God picked him up and stood him at attention to receive his assignment. *“Tell the Hebrews that though they have turned their back on Me, and despite their impudent and stubborn refusal to bow before Me, I am not done with them yet.”* God had lots more to say to them, and Ezekiel was His mouthpiece. We listen up and pay attention to God too.

Tues Mark 6:1-6 We see these as rhetorical questions, for the answers are obvious. Of course, Jesus’ skill set was heavenly, superseding His carpenter skills, and as second Person in the Trinity, Jesus put His siblings in the shade (1-3). Further, when Jesus doesn’t get the credit He deserves, He may pack up and go where others will provide a more receptive audience (4-6).

Wed 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 Whatever the infirmity was, God allowed it as a *messenger of Satan* to repeatedly knock the wind out of Paul. Why? Because pride over one’s spiritual gifts or religious adventures is still pride, in utter contrast to the humble demeanor God wants from us. PS: Our weaknesses ought not bother us, for Jesus’ power flourishes in our weaknesses (9-10).

Thurs Psalm 143 Summary: “O Lord, I really need You (1-2). The old evil Foe is in my face and on my case (3-4) even while I am trying to hold tightly to You (5-6). But I still can’t handle what is happening in my life (7), so please take control of my life (18)! Cancel out all my negatives (9) and fortify Your positives in me (10). Lord Jesus, I really need You (11-12); help me!

Fri Mark 6:4-5 It’s human nature for childhood chums to remember us as we were back then—classmates and buddies. That familiarity may hinder their accepting us as Sunday School or VBS teacher, or even as pastor or parochial day-school teacher. Jesus ran into that obstacle, too, sad to say.

Sat Acts 28:17-27 Though his civil trial was on hold, Paul was willing to state his case and share his convictions with the local Jewish officials. They accepted his invitation and listened to his testimony. What was really on trial was the basic issue—whether Jesus of Nazareth was God’s choice as the Messiah long-promised to Abraham and his descendants (20). From personal experience Paul knew that Jesus was in heaven and was seated there with His Father for good reason—for He had paid the price required by God’s Law, and His performance squared our account with God. Perfectly. Finally. Now then, who dares ignore God’s own good judgment and reject His gracious benediction (23)? Those who react that way against the Holy Spirit are committing spiritual suicide (25-27). Lord, have mercy!