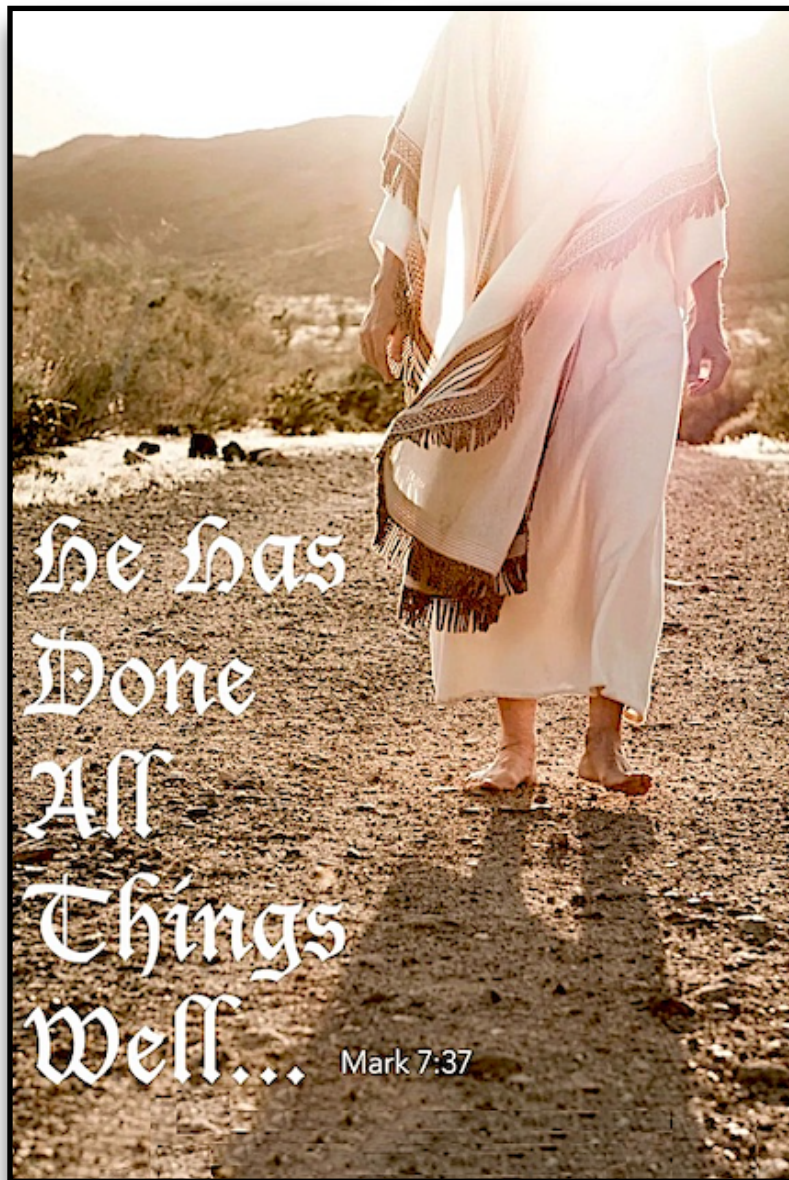


ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO



**16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 12, 2021**

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 40 (pew bible, p.501)
- ◆ The Hymns: 554, 731, 694, 923
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 35:4-7, James 1:17-27
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 146
- ◆ Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (liturgy insert, p.15)

Sermon Text – Mark 7:31-37

Jesus, Our Divine Healer, Does Everything Well!

He ministers to His “patients” ...

1. Individually.
2. Compassionately.
3. Powerfully.

- ◆ Offering of Thankful Hearts
- ◆ Prayer & Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Installation of the Sunday School Staff
- ◆ Benediction / Closing Hymn (923)

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

First Lesson – Isaiah 35:4-7

4 Say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.” 5 Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. 6 Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. 7 The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

Psalm of the Day – From Psalm 146

P Praise the LORD, O my soul:

C I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

P Do not put your trust in princes:

C in mortal men, who cannot save.

P When their spirit departs, they return to the ground:

C On that very day their plans come to nothing.

P Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD his God:

C The Maker of heaven and earth.

P The Lord gives food to the hungry:

C The LORD sets prisoners free.

P The LORD gives sight to the blind:

C The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,

P The LORD watches over the outcast:

C And sustains the fatherless and the widow.

P The LORD remains faithful forever:

C He upholds the cause of the oppressed.

Second Lesson – James 1:17-27

17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. 19 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. 21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. 22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does. 26 If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. 27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Sermon Text – Mark 7:31-37

31 Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. 32 There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man. 33 After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man’s ears. Then he spit and touched the man’s tongue. 34 He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, “Ephphatha!” (which means, “Be opened!”). 35 At this, the man’s ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. 36 Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. 37 People were overwhelmed with amazement. “He has done everything well,” they said. “He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

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A WARM WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP GUESTS. The members of St. Paul are pleased to meet you and are glad you are here to worship with us today. We are a congregation committed without reservations to the entire Truth of God’s Word, the Bible. We have found joy and hope in the Gospel of Christ. We have found moral guidance, a way of life, and the promise of eternal life in the Scriptures. It is gives us pleasure to share these blessings with you. We invite you to sign our guest book and to come and worship with us again!

Serving Us At God’s House Today

Organist: Lisa Sprengeler

Usher: Ed Chiappetti

This Week at St. Paul

Today (9/12)	9:30 am	Worship Service, with installation of the Sunday School Staff
	10:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
	12:00 noon	Pizza Lunch
Sun (9/19)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Class

Extended Calendar

Church Council Meeting: Sunday, Oct.3, 8:30 am
Mary/Martha Ladies’ Meeting: Sunday, Oct.10, 10:45 am
Quarterly Voters’ Meeting: Sunday, Oct.17, 10:45 am
Fall Clean-Up Day: Saturday, Oct.23, 8:00 am to noon

Upcoming Synod Events

Chadron, Nebraska Womens's Retreat: Sept.17-19
Front Range Mission Festival Service hosted by Redeemer
Lutheran Church, Cheyenne: Sunday, Sept.25, 3:00 pm
Front Range Reformation Festival Service, hosted by Prince of
Peace Lutheran Church, Loveland: Sunday, Oct.31, 3:00 pm

Our Annual Front Range Mission Festival Service will be hosted this year by Redeemer Lutheran, Cheyenne. The date for the service is two weeks from today: Sunday, September 26. Service time: 3:00 pm. Pastor Del Maas of Mapleton ND will be the guest speaker. All are invited to attend this afternoon focused on our Lord's Great Commission to make disciples of all nations.

Our Fall Schedule Resumes Today with Sunday School and Bible Class following the service at 10:45 am. The installation of the Sunday School staff will take place in today's service. We thank the Lord for providing the following individuals to serve as teachers for our school and pray for His blessing upon their labors on behalf of the precious lambs of His flock.

- Classroom Instructors: Carly Meyer, Joshua Ruegge, Mike Sprengeler
- Teacher Substitutes – Jo Ellen Blakey, Sharlene Chiappetti
- Music teacher – Lisa Sprengeler

To kick off the new Sunday School year a pizza lunch will be served in the church basement, beginning about noon. Please join us, if you can!

Prayer for Our Sunday School

- * Lord Jesus, bless the start of this new school year. Bless the students and the teachers. As You sat at the feet of teachers in the temple when You were a twelve-year old, so may our children sit at the feet of their teachers and grow in wisdom and love. Let Your Word be a lamp to their feet and a light for their path now and for the rest of their lives. Amen.

Vacancy Assistance: Redeemer Congregation of Cheyenne has requested St. Paul's pastor to lend his assistance with their extended vacancy by conducting services there on a once-a-month basis. With approval of the St Paul Council Pastor Schuetze has agreed to do this until such time as Redeemer's vacancy is filled.

Prayer for More Pastors

- * Lord Jesus Christ, who instituted the office of the holy ministry and provides Your Church with pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry and edifying Your spiritual body, the Church, we come before Your throne of grace on behalf of Redeemer Congregation and other churches experiencing a pastoral vacancy. Bless Your people soon with a pastor to feed them on the green pastures of Your Word, to quench their spiritual thirst with the water of life, and to lead them in the paths of righteousness for Your name's sake. Hear us for Your own sake, who has said: "Pray the Lord of the harvest that He would send out workers into His harvest field." Amen.

Calls News: Michael Sprengeler has returned the call to the dual parish of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bowdle SD, and Zion Lutheran Church, Ipswich SD. <> Pastoral vacancies currently exist at Eden Prairie MN, Manchester MO, Cheyenne WY, and Bowdle/Ipswich. One teacher vacancy exists at Valentine NE.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS

SEPTEMBER 13-18

Mon Isaiah 35:1-7a is part of a larger unit; we already know other chapters of His-story. Idolaters are in for punishment (ch. 34), while God's people receive chastening to strengthen them (1-4) for their earthly pilgrimage. God promised to invigorate ancient Israel for a new life (5-6) in a regenerated country (7)—which sounds much like a preview of heaven.

Tues Mark 7:31-37 In due time, Isaiah's prophecy came to pass, for God sent His Son down to our planet--providing visual and audible proof that God had not forsaken humanity (31-35); supreme proof would come from His empty tomb on Easter morning. *He has done all things well* reads like an epitaph on a headstone, and Jesus deserved that honor more than anyone else.

Wed James 1:17-27 From the view at the top, we are a *kind of first fruits of His creatures*--which is a picturesque way of saying that God claims us first and foremost. On the receiving end, we are given thought and speech—to speak up as God's defense witnesses. No sense getting angry about it (19-20) or using gutter language on the witness stand (21)—and our actions speak louder than our words (22-23). In sum, let's keep an eye on our own failings (23-24) while we get busy with things God has given us to do (25-27).

Thurs Psalm 146 We don't have to be Jewish to join the psalmist in praising God, for as long as we have lungs and voices, we will add our praise to God (2), for our time of grace is NOW, not later (3-4). We have good reason to praise Father, Creator of heaven and Earth, CEO over planet Earth, and the Healer of souls festering with sin (8-9). Forever more (10).

Fri Mark 8:11-21 is not a discourse about home-baked bread, but a warning against home-baked false doctrine (11-15). The disciples were slow to catch the drift (16), so Jesus spelled it out (17-20)—that He was more interested in the sourdough of false doctrine than in Taystee bread, and so are we. God's bread suits our taste, and we pray that we shall never tire of dining on it, snacking on it, and serving it wherever we can—both to ourselves and to others at our table. God's Word is heavenly manna.

Sat James 1:25 What is meant with the *perfect law of liberty*, anyway? Well, since Christ has freed us from Satan's domination (and God's condemnation), we are free as birds to serve whomever we wish. We are free to serve God and the impulses of His Holy Spirit. That's not only swell, it's perfect! Being at liberty to choose whom to serve – is a wonderful way to live. May God bless and keep us, smile upon us, and give us peace of conscience while we serve Him as best we can, come what may! Amen, Lord Jesus!