

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

– Church of the Lutheran Confession –
Lakewood, Colorado



*“I am sending
my messenger to
prepare the way
before me ...”*

Malachi 3:1

**2nd Sunday in Advent
December 5, 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 Word & Sacrament (printed on liturgy insert inside front cover of maroon hymnal)

Serving Us At God's House Today

Organist: Carly Meyer; Usher: Mark Bob Rankin
Communion Assistant: Mike Sprengeler

- ◆ Pre-service Devotion: Psalm 32 (pew bible, p.495)
- ◆ The Hymns: 331, 347, 702*, *705 (**tan hymnal*)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Philippians 1:1-11, Luke 3:1-6
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 24
- ◆ Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed (*last page of liturgy insert*)

Sermon Text – Malachi 3:1-4

Let the Lord's Messenger Clear the Way

1. He prepares you for the Savior's coming.
2. By proclaiming repentance, and
3. By drawing you to joyful and thankful service.

- ◆ Prayer & the Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Communion Liturgy (liturgy insert, pp.17-21)
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (705, in the tan hymnal)

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

Today's Scriptures

First Lesson – Philippians 1:3-11

3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. 8 God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Psalm for the Day – From Psalm 24

P The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it:

C The world, and all who live in it.

P For he founded it upon the seas:

C And established it upon the waters.

P Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?:

C Who may stand in his holy place?

P He who has clean hands and a pure heart:

C He will receive blessing from God his Savior.

P Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors:

C That the King of glory may come in.

P Who is this King of glory?:

C The LORD strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

P Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors:

C That the King of glory may come in.

P Who is he, this King of glory?:

C The LORD Almighty— he is the King of glory.

Second Lesson – Luke 3:1-6

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. 3 He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 4 As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. 5 Every

valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. 6 And all mankind will see God's salvation."

Sermon Text – Malachi 3:1-4

1 "See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, 4 and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

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

This Week at St. Paul

Today (12/5)	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:45 am	Christmas Decorating
	3:00 pm	Redeemer, Cheyenne Pastor Installation Service, followed by meal
Sun (12/12)	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Christmas Meal & Baskets Preparation

Upcoming December Events

- ◆ Children's Christmas Eve Service Practices: Sunday, Dec.12,19, 10:45 am
- ◆ Children's Christmas Eve Service: Friday, Dec.24, 6:30 pm
- ◆ Christmas Day Worship: Saturday, Dec.25, 9:30 am
- ◆ NY's Eve Communion Service: Friday, Dec.31, 7:00 pm

The Members of Redeemer Lutheran, Cheyenne, invite you to join them in the installation of their new pastor, Benjamin Libby, in a special service that will take place this afternoon. Time of service is 3:00 pm with a dinner served afterwards.

Christmas Basket Items – The Mary & Martha ladies group is planning to prepare Christmas baskets for sharing with St. Paul members unable to regularly attend services. If you have non-perishable food items you would like to donate for these baskets, please bring them to church by next Sunday. Cash donations for purchasing basket items are also welcome. These may be given to ladies' treasurer, Crystal Ruegge. Thank you.

Student Sponsorship – Our St. Paul Mary & Martha ladies continue to financially support a sem student at the Mt. Horeb Lutheran Bible Institute in Lomé, Togo. The student's name is Komla Agbayi. The annual cost for his support is \$360 which is due in January. All of our members are welcome to give a donation for our sponsorship of Komla. To do so place your gift in a separate envelope marked "Mary Martha Kinship" and place it in the offering plate or give it to the Mary/Martha treasurer, Crystal Ruegge. If you wish to donate with a check, please make it out to "St. Paul Lutheran Church" and write "Mary Martha Kinship" on the memo space.

Copies of the Church Year Calendar for 2021-2022 may be found in the tract track. It lists the Bible readings for each Sunday of the year, which will be read in our worship services. A good devotional resource. Help yourself!

Synod News

- ◆ **Africa Missionary Visitation** – Pastor John Hein and Missionary Todd Ohlmann have been visiting our CLC mission fields in Africa. Pastor Hein, who serves as our part-time visiting missionary to Liberia, recently returned from a 2 1/2 week visit to Liberia. You can view his Bible Class presentation about this visit at: <https://clcgracelutheranchurch.org/20211128bc>. <> Missionary Ohlmann has been in Tanzania for about a month. He plans to return home on December 10. You can read about the Tanzania visitation on his blog at: <http://missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com/>
- ◆ **2022 Mission Helper Trip** – Missionary Ohlmann reports that there are many new opportunities to do Child Evangelism in Tanzania, especially among the Maasai tribes. The leaders of the CLC-Tanzania and CLC-Zambia are very eager and excited to host volunteers again in 2022. The deadline for applications for the 2022 Mission Helper Trip to Africa this summer is January 10. Find more information and apply online at: mht.lutheranmissions.org/2022-east-africa
- ◆ **Mission Webinar Recording** – The CDF Mission Webinar from November 13 can be viewed online at <https://us.lutheranmissions.org/cdf/>. In addition to the video webinar you can also access the presentation slides and worksheets to guide your own study. Please check out these resources and make use of them as you seek to grow in your faith and in the saving message of salvation in Christ Jesus!

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions December 6-11

Mon Malachi 3:1-7b This may not sound like the usual Advent message, but take a few minutes to read the entire book and get captivated by the dialogue between the LORD and Israel. [Just follow the quote marks.] When Jesus arrives (1), He will clean house (2-3) and set things straight (4-5), for He has always been merciful (6). When Israel reneged on its side of the contract, God as much as said: “Well, then, I will cover your lapse all by Myself.” (7)

Tues Luke 3:1-6 God set the stage for Jesus’ birth via His advance agent, John (2). Now, what did God want from Jewry? Repentance! “If you want Me to wash you clean, you must quit playing in the manure pile.” (3) Isaiah pictured repentance as road construction (4-5) through valleys of low-down dirtiness and mountains of lofty self-righteousness--so that God’s gift would travel over all obstacles and arrive at our doorstep to find home in our hearts. Even so come, Lord Jesus!

Wed Philipians 1:3-11 *Until the day of Jesus Christ* (6) = Advent. The Apostle Paul was oriented toward Jesus’ second Advent, as were these Christians, and as we are too, for every day on planet Earth brings us closer to Jesus’ second Advent. Paul’s greetings and confession humble us, for who of us tells others that we *have them in our heart*, that we have such longing for them that even our innards are affected (8) because we have not seen them during this pandemic? Lord Jesus, increase our love for one another!

Thurs Malachi 3:16-4:6 Let’s spend a few more moments with the word of God spoken via Malachi; when *those who revered the LORD spoke to one another* about Jesus, *the LORD listened* and was moved to commemorate them (16-17)--in contrast to the horrible fate reserved for the ungodly (4:1). God wants us to know that our future is loaded with blessings (2). Note: the closing verses of the Old segue into Luke 1:13-17 of the New Testament.

Fri Luke 1:13-17 *Your prayer is heard* for Messiah to arrive, and your family will help *make ready a people prepared* for His arrival. Making people *ready* to receive the Advent blessing means bringing them to repent and *become as little children*—just as *turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the justified* is part-and-parcel of Advent repentance. All of which makes them prepared, ready, and receptive to Jesus’ arrival. God grant it!

Sat Philipians 3:1-11 Paul acknowledges that while others might brag about their Jewishness, he had been brought to realize that being a super Jew (which he certainly was) was total spiritual trash (4-7) – in contrast to the spiritual superiority gifted to him when the Spirit brought him to depend on Christ’s person and accomplishments (8-12). Do we have any better claim on *finally* leaving the cemetery behind us (11)? No, for we lay claim to Jesus.