

# ***St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church***

– Church of the Lutheran Confession –  
Lakewood, Colorado



But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are little among the  
thousands of Judah, yet out of you  
shall come forth to Me  
the One to be Ruler in Israel,  
Whose goings forth are from of old,  
from everlasting.

**And this One  
shall be peace.**

Micah 5:2,5

**4th Sunday in Advent  
December 19, 2021**

## **St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**

2470 Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80214  
(303) 233-5000 – [www.denverlutheran.com](http://www.denverlutheran.com)

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 insert inside front cover of maroon hymnal)*

#### Serving Us At God's House Today

Organist: Lisa Sprengeler

Usher: Bob Rankin

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 98 (pew bible, p.538)
- ◆ The Hymns: 349, 933, 340 (1-4), 340 (5)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-55
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 31

#### **Sermon Text – Micah 5:2-5**

#### ***Look to Little Bethlehem!***

1. To marvel at your Savior's birth.
2. To appreciate His royal blessings.

- ◆ Offering of Thankful Hearts
- ◆ Prayer & Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (340, stanza 5)

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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 – Luke 1:39-55

39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, 40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!" 46 And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me — holy is his name. 50 His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. 51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. 52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful 55 to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers."

## Psalm for the Day – From Psalm 31

P In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge:  
C **Deliver me in your righteousness.**  
P Be my rock of refuge:  
C **A strong fortress to save me.**  
P Since you are my rock and my fortress:  
C **For the sake of your name lead and guide me.**  
P My times are in your hands:  
C **Save me in your unfailing love.**  
P How great is your goodness:  
C **Which you have stored up for those who fear you.**  
P Which you bestow in the sight of men:  
C **On those who take refuge in you.**  
P Praise be to the LORD:  
C **For he showed his wonderful love to me.**

## Second Lesson – Hebrews 10:5-10

5 Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; 6 with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. 7 Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll— I have come to do your will, O God.'" 8 First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them" (although the law required them to be made). 9 Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. 10 And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

### Sermon Text – Micah 5:2-5

2 But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.” 3 Therefore He shall give them up, until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; then the remnant of His brethren shall return to the children of Israel. 4 And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; and they shall abide, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth; 5 and this One shall be peace. [NKJV]

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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.

#### This Week at St. Paul

Today (12/19)	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Children’s Christmas Eve Service Practice
Fri	6:30 pm	Children’s Christmas Eve Service
Sat	9:30 am	Christmas Day Worship
Sun (12/26)	9:30 am	Worship Service

**New Year’s Eve Worship** – Friday, Dec.31, 7:00 pm. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

**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 to support him is \$360 which is due each January. All of our St. Paul 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. Thank you!

#### **Synod News**

Called Home – The Lord, in His perfect love and wisdom, took our brother in Christ, Dr. David Menton, to be with Him on Saturday, December 11. Dave was a resident of Petersburg KY and a member of Faith Lutheran, Manchester MO. He served as an award-winning professor

at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis for over thirty years. After his retirement in 2000 he served with Answers in Genesis as a speaker, writer, and researcher until October 2021. His funeral service was held yesterday in Kentucky, conducted by Pastor Todd Ohlmann. Please keep Dave’s wife Debbie and his family and friends in your prayers. *Precious in the sight of the Lord, is the death of His saints. Psalm 116:15.*

Loganville Fire – “Pastor Frank Gantt and his family recently experienced an electrical fire in their home in Loganville GA. The fire was contained in a single bedroom, limiting the physical damage. Though they have been displaced from their home, they are thankful to the Lord for the limited damage and that there was no injury or harm to anyone. While they are wrestling with the issues of dealing with this trial during the Christmas season, they are confident that the Lord only chastens those whom He loves” (from Pastor Matthew Hanel).

Immanuel Lutheran Christmas Choral Service – A choral service featuring the choirs of Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary was presented last Friday at Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire WI. The concert will be available for viewing online for one week. To watch it, go to [www.eauclairemessiah.com](http://www.eauclairemessiah.com) and click on the “Live Stream” button (lower left). The concert’s theme is: The Martin Luther Christmas Book, featuring songs of the season along with devotional readings drawn from Luther’s Christmas sermons.

Africa Missionary Visitations – 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 returned home from a visitation trip to Tanzania on December 10. You can read about his 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 July 2022 Mission Helper Trip to Africa is January 10. Find more info and apply online at: [mht.lutheranmissions.org/2022-east-africa](http://mht.lutheranmissions.org/2022-east-africa).

St Paul Offerings Through December 5, 2021			
<b>St Paul Contributions</b>	<b>2021 YTD</b>	<b>Budget YTD</b>	<b>Annual Total</b>
General	\$63,275	\$70,071	\$74,361
Building Fund	\$445		
Sunday School			
<b>CLC Contributions</b>			
CLC General Fund (CBP)	\$7,760	\$7,538	\$8,000
ILC Building Projects (AC/Dorm)	\$270		
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	\$745		
Kinship	\$0		
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	\$1,380		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$73,875</b>	<b>\$77,609</b>	<b>\$82,361</b>

## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions December 20-25

**Mon Micah 5:2-5a** Through Micah God is speaking to Bethlehem as though it were a person, for He had strong feelings toward the village where Rachel died and was buried, the home of Boaz, Ruth, Obed, Jesse, and David. Though it was similar to others in Judah, God selected it for the birthplace of Jesus, whose career would *reach to the ends of the Earth* and administer peace on Earth, good will to mankind. “The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight” celebrates Jesus’ entry into humanity. (TLH 647:1)

**Tues Luke 1:26-38** Apparently Mary needed (and deserved) to be informed how she fit into God’s plans for humanity: God wanted His Son to have the human genome via her (26-31), a crucial factor for Jesus’ mission (32-33). Since *nothing will be impossible for God*, so shall it be! Glory be to God for being so generous, loving, and self-sacrificing toward wayward humanity!

**Wed Hebrews 10:5-10** lets us eavesdrop on something important that Jesus had to say about His incarnation/birth in Bethlehem. “Father, You have given Me a body, which will be dedicated to serve You. Since in My body I can do better for humanity than sacrifices of animal flesh and blood could ever do, My self-sacrifice will supersede that whole rigmarole. In My body I will set things straight, once and for all.” Thank You, Jesus!

**Thurs Zechariah 9:9** was fulfilled on Palm Sunday, but it was partially fulfilled at Christmas, too, like this: Jesus made that trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem along with Mary, and if she was riding on a donkey, so was Jesus, nestled in the womb of His mother. *Lowly and riding on a donkey* into Bethlehem may serve as prelude to His entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Also, it’s a progression from lesser to greater: honor given by few at His birth progresses to more public acclaim on Palm Sunday. Glory be to God on high!

**Fri Luke 1:39-55** As the long years of preview shrank to a few months, Mary took the hint that she could pay a visit to Elizabeth, her relative and friend, who was starting the third trimester of her pregnancy. It proved to be a surprise visit for them—and for John, another miracle baby, who was moved to rejoice at his Savior paying a visit to him and his family. Hallelujah!

**Sat Galatians 4:4-5** **But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.** Jesus arrived right on schedule—the *fullness of time*; right on target—*born under the law of God*; right on purpose—to *redeem law-breakers*; right on effect—*that we might receive adoption as children of God*. Right on!