

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

– Church of the Lutheran Confession –
Lakewood, Colorado



**Sunday after Christmas
December 26, 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 liturgy insert inside front cover of maroon hymnal)

Serving Us At God's House Today

Organist: Jeana Kettner; Usher: Bob Rankin

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 111 (pew bible, p.542)
- ◆ The Hymns: 389, 410, 376, 390
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: 1 Samuel 2:18-20,26; Hebrews 2:10-18
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 122

Sermon Text – Luke 2:41-52

The Bible Account of the Astonishing Twelve-Year-Old Jesus

- ◆ Offering of Thankful Hearts
- ◆ Prayer & the Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (937)

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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 – 1 Samuel 2:18-20,26

18 But Samuel was ministering before the LORD—a boy wearing a linen ephod. 19 Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. 20 Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the LORD give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the LORD.” Then they would go home. | 26 And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with men.

Psalm for the Day – From Psalm 122

P I rejoiced with those who said to me:
C **“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”**
P Our feet are standing in your gates:
C **O Jerusalem.**
P That is where the tribes of the LORD go up:
C **To praise the name of the LORD.**
P Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
C **“May those who love you be secure.**
P May there be peace within your walls:
C **And security within your citadels.”**
P For the sake of my brothers and friends:
C **I will say, “Peace be within you.”**
P For the sake of the house of the LORD our God:
C **I will seek your prosperity.**

Second Lesson – Hebrews 2:10-18

10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. 11 Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. 12 He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises.” 13 And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.” 14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. 16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. 17 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. 18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Sermon Text – Luke 2:41-52

41 Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. 42 When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. 43 After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. 44 Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.” 49 “Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” 50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them. 51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

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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.

Liturgical Note for the Christmas Season

The season of Christmas lasts for twelve days, from December 25 through January 5. With Christmas we begin to look at what God has done for us through His Son, Jesus Christ. Through Him our sins have been forgiven and washed away. The paraments up front are white, symbolizing the glory and holiness of the newborn Savior.

This Week at St. Paul

Today (12/26) 9:30 am Worship Service
Fri 7:00 pm New Year's Eve Communion Service
Sun (1/2) 9:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion
10:45 am Undecorating (No Sunday School or Bible Class)

Upcoming in January

- Mary/Martha Ladies' Meeting: Sunday, January 9, 10:45 am
- Annual Voters' Meeting: Sunday, January 16, 10:45 am
- Church Council Installation: Sunday, January 23

In Our Prayers: Don Claeys, who tested positive recently for Covid. He is experiencing mild symptoms. May the Lord bless and strengthen him.

Thank You: Dear parishioners of St. Paul, thank you for the expressions of Christian fellowship and love you have shown to me through the year and, in particular, this Christmas season through cards, gifts, and words of personal encouragement. May God bless and keep you in the coming year of His grace. Pastor Schuetze

January Birthday Blessings To . . .

Tristan Christopher, Jan 7	Jim Wamboldt, Jan 16
Jesse Cornish, Sr., Jan 11	Landon Scow, Jan 18
Julie Whitmer-Wright, Jan 11	Crystal Ruegge, Jan 19
Jaydin Peters, Jan 14	Louise Rutherford, Jan 2

Synod News

2022 Mission Helper Trip – Missionary Ohlmann recently returned from Tanzania and reports that there are many new opportunities for Child Evangelism, especially among the Maasai tribes. The pastors of the CLC-Tanzania and CLC-Zambia are very eager and excited to host volunteers again in July of 2022. The deadline for applications is January 10. Find more information and apply online at: mht.lutheranmissions.org/2022-east-africa

Call News – Pastor Sam Rodebaugh of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, Florida, has accepted the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester MO.

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions December 27 – January 1

Mon Isaiah 9:2-7 The Holy Spirit put Jesus into this prophecy as a great Light. God showed Light at the end of the tunnel for huddled cave-dwellers; He opened the shutters of His lighthouse beacon (3) upon eyes that were not used to such brightness; some of them thrilled at the sight of God's Light (3) because a Child was born who is incomparably bright (6-7). Hallelujah!

Tues Luke 2:1-20 God's plan of salvation was served by the Roman Empire for Jesus' arrival (1-5), and humble folk served, too (5-8). An angel explained what God was doing (8-10, God's tour choir came to town (14), and local shepherds hurried to share the good news (17), while *Mary kept all things and pondered them in her heart*. Let us return home with these blessings!

Wed John 1:1-5 Christmas is a world-changer, for Almighty God bonded Himself to humanity (1-3), depositing His gifts of Life and Light in our hearts. We humans need enlightenment because we belong to the race of cave-dwellers with poor eyesight. God not only improves our spiritual eyesight by shining in our hearts but He also chases darkness into the shadows.

Thurs Exodus 33:18-23, 34:5-7 When God allows a mortal to see/know Him personally, few have lived to tell about it. Moses lived to tell about it because God wanted Moses to reveal/proclaim Himself to others. God's character is *goodness*, His attitude *gracious*, His heart *compassionate*—all of which add up to God's *glory*. In/with/via Jesus God reveals His inner nature: *merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth . . . forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin* (34:6). Praise God!

Fri John 1:9-18 The difference between the *true Light* and other lights is that other lights are flickering, twinkling and wobbling until they flare out because they lack dependable fuel to keep them burning. They are but candles in the windstorm of life, short-lived, burning out to stubs. The true Light stays lit generation after generation, dependable, bright with God's glory, able to *enlighten every human born into a dark world*. God grant it to our world, too!

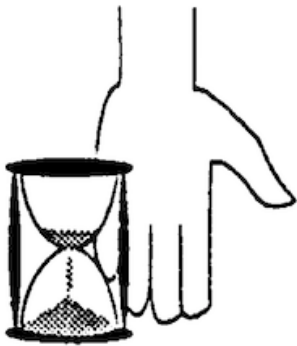
Sat Romans 8:31-32 *What then shall we say to these things?* Since God has gone out of His way for us, did not spare any expense and effort to reclaim us, put His own Son's life on the line, removed Him **from us** in a cemetery – but then brought Him back to be once again **with** us – alive, fully functional and proactive in our interests, we can (and do) say that God has established His covenant of grace with us, has adopted us as His children, and has reserved places in heaven for us. With God going all out for us and with Jesus back in heaven controlling our destiny, we are facing the new year with renewed confidence in God. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

New Year's Prayer

A year of life has glided by
I trace its course with thoughtful eye;
For rich in blessings from above
It shines with marks of heav'nly love.

From day to day by Him were giv'n
Each earthly good, each hope of heaven;
Nor did His hand correction spare,
But even His chastenings proved His care.

And now a year before me stands,
The future hidden in its hands.
I know not what it may disclose;
But One who loves me sees and knows.



Upheld by Him, I will not fear
To meet the secrets of the year;
Its changes follow His command;
I know my times are in His hand.

My foes are strong, and I am weak,
But help divine I still may seek;
Look up, my heart, and fear no harm,
Almighty strength is in His arm.

For us His love has wonders done,
For us He spared not His own Son;
O Christ, my unbelief remove!
Nor ever let me doubt that love.

And when my days and years are past,
And all life's training ends at last,
May I, accepted through His grace,
Behold forevermore His face.

Author Unknown