

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

– Church of the Lutheran Confession –
Lakewood, Colorado

His father saw him and...ran to his
son, threw his arms around him and
kissed him.

Luke 15:20



**4th Sunday in Lent
March 27, 2022**

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: Lisa Sprengeler; Usher: Don Claeys

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 32 (pew bible, p.495)
- ◆ The Hymns: 915, 611, 609 (1-5), 609 (6-7)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 12:1-6, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 32
- ◆ Confession of Faith: Apostles' Creed (liturgy insert, p.15)

Sermon Text – Luke 15:1-3,11-32

Christ's Parable of the Lost Son

(A Character Study)

1. The son who ran away.
2. The loving father.
3. The son who stayed at home.

- ◆ Offering of Thankful Hearts
- ◆ Prayer & Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (#609, stanzas 6-7)

† † †

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

Today's Scriptures

First Lesson – Isaiah 12:1-6

1 In that day you will say: “I will praise you, O LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. 2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.” 3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. 4 In that day you will say: “Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. 5 Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. 6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

Psalm of the Day – From Psalm 32

P Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven:

C Whose sins are covered.

P When I kept silent, your hand was heavy upon me:

C My strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

P Then I acknowledged my sin to you:

C And did not cover up my iniquity.

P I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD”:

C And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

P You are my hiding place:

C You will protect me from trouble.

P Many are the woes of the wicked:

C But the LORD's unfailing love surrounds those who trust in him.

Second Lesson – 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.” 20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 22 Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

Sermon Text – Luke 15:1-3,11-32

1 Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear him. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” 3 Then Jesus told them this parable: | 11 “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. 13 “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17 “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.’ 20 So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. 21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate. 25 “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ 28 “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ 31 “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

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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

Sun (3/27)	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
Wed (3/30)	7:00 pm	Wednesday Lenten Service
Sun (4/3)	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Class

In Our Prayers: The family and friends of Louise Rutherford who was called to her eternal rest last Tuesday, March 22. Her funeral will be conducted at the Olinger Crown Hill Funeral Home this Friday, April 1, at 1:30 pm, with Pastor Schuetze officiating. The committal will be held at the cemetery after the service. There will be no visitation.

Our Midweek Lenten Service Schedule continues this Wednesday, March 30. Conducting the service this week: Pastor Timothy Wheaton of Loveland. Pastor Schuetze will conduct the service at Redeemer, Cheyenne. Our Lenten theme is *“Meditating On Our Lord’s Passion Through Hymns.”* This week’s hymn: #451 “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted.” Sermon text: Isaiah 53:3-5.

Our Current Adult Bible Study Topic is Lesson 16 *“Prayer”* from the study course *“Learn from Me.”* Currently we are in the middle of a study of the Lord’s Prayer. *“Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation” (Psalm 25:4-5).*

New in Our Tract Rack: *“CLC World Missions Prayer List”* for March, provided by Missionary Todd Ohlmann. Take, read, pray!

April Birthday (Anniversary) Blessings To . . .

Mary Anna Sprengeler, Apr 3	Debbie New, Apr 15
Jennifer Roberson, Apr 3	Pat Newton, Apr 19
Wayne Ruegge, Apr 3	Burt Miller, Apr 21
Fred Brethauer, Apr 6	Ruth Claeys, Apr 23
Kylee Acker, Apr 6	(Gilbert & Jo Ellen Blakey, Apr 19)
Ruth Greening, Apr 9	(Bob & Carrol Rankin, Apr 28)
Dustin Fritzler, Apr 12	

Synod News & Notes

Call for Nominations – The deadline is March 31 for nominations to CLC offices at our upcoming synod convention, June 23-26, 2022. Pastors, professors, male teachers, and voters of congregations within the Church of the Lutheran Confession are invited to nominate individuals for the following synodical offices: CLC President • CLC Vice-President • CLC Moderator • CLC Secretary • Called Servants for the Board of Trustees, Regents, Missions, and Education • Lay Members for the Board of Trustees, Regents, Missions, and Education. An online nomination form and accompanying information is available on the clclutheran.org website (scroll down to “Convention 2022”). Nominations may also be sent by regular mail to this address: Moderator Paul D. Nolting, 810 W 3rd St, Valentine, NE 69201. *U.S. mail must be postmarked no later than March 31.*

CLC Youth Camp will be taking place on the campus of Immanuel Lutheran College, Eau Claire, June 12-18. It is a week-long camp of faith, fellowship, and fun. It is open to kids going into grades 6-9 and the cost is \$135/camper. There is also a morning pre-camp program available for kids going into grades K-5 with a cost of \$60/camper. *Registration will open Sunday, March 27, at 3:00 pm.* For more information visit youthcampclc.wixsite.com/camp or email the camp directors Kendra Rodebaugh and Sam Radermacher at youthcamp.clc@gmail.com.

Black Hills Family Bible Camp – “Camping in the beauty of the Black Hills, studies in the beauty of God’s Word. There will also be many outdoor activities available such as hiking, climbing/repelling, swimming, kayaking, bonfires, s’mores etc. The camp runs from the evening of Friday July 15th through the morning of Tuesday July 19th. To sign up or for more information, you can call Pastor Aaron Ude at (605) 393-1311 or email him at aaronude@gmail.com.”

Call News – Teacher Rebecca Lillo of St. Stephen’s Lutheran School, Mountain View CA, accepted the call to teach the upper grade classes at Faith Lutheran School, Markesan WI. <> Mr. Luke Willitz accepted the call to be the pastor of Living Savior Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie MN.

Tour Choir Student Video – What does the Immanuel Lutheran Tour Choir mean to its singers? Several members of the 2022 choir made a video, giving their personal impressions of what it means to proclaim the Gospel of Christ Crucified in song. You may see this inspirational clip at tinyurl.com/tchoir-22. (The choir recently concluded a 9-day concert tour to 12 CLC churches in Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin.)



Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

March 28 – April 2

Mon Isaiah 12 is a short chapter loaded with encouragement and admonition, which follows ch. 11—God’s promise of Jesus’ arrival *on that day* when He would change everything. Children of God turn their faces and hearts to heaven and tell God how thrilled they are—both for themselves (1-2) and for others (4-6)—that God is always front and center. Praise the LORD!

Tues Luke 15:1-3,11-32 is a long parable by which Jesus hoped to edify some self-satisfied religious bigots—that God doesn’t discard wayward souls but seeks their repentance and will welcome them back home. It’s the parable of the Prodigal Father, whose love is prodigious for wayward sinners. [His steadfast love is the only hope for wayward souls today, too.]

Wed Romans 8:1-10 takes us from heaven to Earth, from Christmas to Good Friday, and then back again from Earth to heaven. Since it’s only fair/just (4) that sometime, somewhere, **someone** should straighten out what Adam messed up, the Son of God volunteered for the dirty job . . . and got it done (3). In the follow-up, Jesus pulls us along with Him, freeing us from sin-slavery (6-8) and putting some Spirit into us for godly, self-sacrificial living.

Thurs Isaiah 11 comes after the chapter of God’s Christmas Gift (ch. 9)—followed by a deluge of doom for God’s adversaries (ch. 10) before returning to *that day* when Jesus arrives on the scene (ch. 11). So that’s the setting for **ch. 12**, which resounds with praise from you and me—for *God has become our salvation* too, and we also *draw water* (spiritually) *from the wells of salvation* (God’s Word) both at home and in worship assembly.

Fri Luke 15 The Holy Spirit has loaded Luke’s Gospel with many of Jesus’ parables to illustrate God’s salvation enterprise. Three of these parables focus on God’s desire and efforts to save that which was lost. A sheep that strayed and should be rescued represents a soul that has strayed and needs rescuing. A coin lost in the shuffle of daily life represents a human soul misplaced in some dusty corner of our habitat. We hardly need a translation of the “lost son” parable, for s/he’s someone we already know.

Sat Romans 10:12-17 Good news: we don’t owe ourselves anything that the world and Satan suggest we have coming. We should trust God’s good judgment that *living according to the flesh* (satisfying carnal cravings) is deadly—which repentant children of God will stifle day by day and hour by hour (12-13). Some have found that the following mantra helps:

“God is my Father; I am His child; He loves me.”

God bless us from here to eternity!