

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

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God's Revelation to Elijah

"Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper."

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www.denverlutheran.com

Find us on Facebook at: "St Paul Ev. Lutheran Church"

Member Congregation:
Church of the Lutheran Confession 
www.clclutheran.org

12th Sunday after Pentecost – August 20, 2023

Order of Worship: Service of the Word

You will find today's order of worship printed on the liturgy insert tucked inside the front cover of the maroon *Lutheran Service Book* (in the hymnal rack).

Serving Us At God's House Today

Organist: Lisa Sprengeler

Ushers: Zachary Ruegge, Don Claeys

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 44 (pew bible, p.503)
- ◆ Today's Hymns: 904, 715, 644 (1-4), 644 (5)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: James 1:2-8,12; Matthew 14:22-33
- ◆ Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

Sermon Text – 1 Kings 19:9-18

Theme

"Lessons from the Story of the Refugee Prophet, Elijah"

1. Trust in the Lord's Word of Promise.
2. Know that you're not the only one left.

- ◆ Offering of Thankful Hearts
- ◆ Altar Prayer & Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction
- ◆ Closing Hymn (644, stanza 5)

Today's Scriptures

First Lesson – James 1:2-8,12

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. 6 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. | 12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Psalm of the Day – From Psalm 73

P I am always with you, O LORD:

C **You hold me by my right hand.**

P You guide me with your counsel:

C **And afterward you will take me into glory.**

P Whom have I in heaven but you?:

C **And earth has nothing I desire besides you.**

P My flesh and my heart may fail:

C **But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.**

Second Lesson – Matthew 14:22-33

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. 25 During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear. 27 But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” 28 “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

29 “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” 31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?” 32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Sermon Text – 1 Kings 19:9-18

9 There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?” 10 He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.” 11 The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” 14 He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.” 15 The LORD said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. 16 Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. 17 Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. 18 Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him.”

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A Warm Welcome To Our Worship Guests. It is our prayer that your faith is strengthened today by the preaching of our Lord's pure Word and by the psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs that our Scripture-based liturgy offers every week. St. Paul is a member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC). The CLC is represented by congregations throughout the United States and Canada, with affiliated churches in Africa, India, and neighboring nations. All of our churches confess the Bible to be the inspired and unerring Word of God. We invite our Guests to record their visit by signing the Guestbook and to come worship with us again.

This Week at St. Paul

Today (8/20)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Coffee / Fellowship Time
Sun (8/27)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Special Voters Meeting

Upcoming in September

- Sunday School Staff Installation: Sunday, Sept 10
- Adult Bible Class & Sunday School Resume: Sunday, Sept 10
- West-Central Pastoral Conference, hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bismarck ND: Tues-Thur, Sept.12-14
- Western Women's Retreat, hosted by Grace Lutheran Church, Valentine NE: Fri-Sun, Sept.22-24
- Fall Clean-Up Day: Sat., Sept 23 (8:00 am to noon)

Special Voters Meeting: Next Sunday, August 27, after the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to consider, and possibly accept, a bid that we received from a construction company to repair the front landscaping and upper sidewalk of the church.

Sunday School Calls: Last Week the following Sunday School calls were issued by the congregation through the Board of Elders to the following individuals to serve in our Sunday School in the coming school year:

- Derek Barthels (superintendent)
- Carly Mess, Lily Meyer, Emily Ruegge (classroom instructors)
- Zachary Ruegge, Ed Chiappetti, Sharlene Chiappetti, Mike Sprengeler (teacher substitutes)
- Carly Mess, Lisa Sprengeler (music teachers)

CLC Missions News

- Missionary Bruce Naumann has been on furlough in the U.S. for the past few weeks. His wife Paula will accompany him when he returns to Tanzania on August 20. You can keep up to date on the Gospel outreach work being carried on in Tanzania under the leadership of Missionary Naumann at this address on the internet: clc-tz.blogspot.com.
- Missionary Peter Evensen recently returned to Togo following a one-month furlough in the States. He is making plans to coordinate a mission visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo with Missionary Todd Ohlmann in early 2024.
- Missionary Ohlmann has posted the CLC World Missions Prayer List for August at this address: missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com. Be encouraged to login and read. Hard copies of the prayer list are also available by the tract rack. As you will see, there is much to pray about!

Call News: Missionary Peter Evensen has returned the call from Resurrection Lutheran Church in Corpus Christi TX.

The Opening Worship Service for Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary will take place today at 3:00 pm in the campus fieldhouse. May the Lord richly bless the upcoming year as the students at Immanuel grow together in the truth of God's saving Word. For more details about goings-on at our school in Eau Claire WI login to the Immanuel website at: ilc.edu.

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

August 21-26, '23

Mon Luke 7:36-50 The Pharisee who compares himself to the sinful woman concludes that he is not only much better than she is, but that he is also better than the Jesus whom she worships. In a parable, Jesus points out that **both** he and the woman are debtors (sinful), and it's really all about forgiveness.

Tues Romans 8:33-34 The treasure of God's kingdom is forgiveness. If God gave up His own Son for our forgiveness, who can still bring those sins against us? Perhaps Jesus Christ, who carried our sin to the cross, could hold it against us that He had to suffer, but look! He is even interceding for us!

Wed Romans 8:35-39 In this life we face troubles of many kinds, but even the ultimate trouble, death itself, cannot take away the forgiving love of God in Christ which we have been given. The victory is assured before the troubles even show up.

Thur Daniel 9:15-16 The Lord's prophet confesses that Jerusalem, the home of God's chosen people, deserved destruction for their sins, but remembers His "acts of compassion and forgiveness" (v9), including the deliverance from Egypt, and pleads that He would turn His anger and wrath away once more.

Fri Daniel 9:17-19 Not only does Daniel seek God's grace, but also His glory. The surrounding nations are laughing at the destruction of the city known as the Lord's. He pleads for forgiveness on the basis of God's great compassion, and restoration of God's name among all people of the world.

Sat Matthew 12:9-21 Jesus has compassion for the man with the withered hand, in contrast to the Pharisees, who show more compassion for their animals. They see only an opportunity to accuse Jesus, and then plot His death (on the Sabbath). Jesus shows compassion toward them by withdrawing.