

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Congregation President: Ed Chiappetti, 303-882-1776

Sunday School Superintendent: Derek Barthels



Heavenly Father, as we begin Advent enlighten our faith and fill our hearts with Your peace. May Your Son, our Savior, find us watching and waiting in joy when He comes. We pray in His holy name. Amen.

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



1st Sunday in Advent – December 3, 2023

Order of Worship

Service of the Word & Sacrament

Find today's order of service printed on the liturgy insert tucked inside the front cover of the maroon *Lutheran Service Book* (in the hymnal rack). Large print copies of the order of worship and worship bulletin are on the shelf under the tract rack or speak to an usher who will be happy to share them with you. A warm welcome in Christ to all worshipers!

Serving Us At God's House Today

Organist: Lisa Sprengeler

Ushers: Bob Rankin, Don Claeys

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 34 (pew bible, p.496)
- ◆ Today's Hymns: 331, 340, 350, 705* (**tan hymnal*)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 64:1-9, Mark 13:33-37
- ◆ Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

Sermon Text – 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Theme

"God Gives Us a New Year of *Grace*"

- ◆ Offering of Thankful Hearts
- ◆ Altar Prayer & Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction
- ◆ Closing Hymn (705, tan hymnal)

Today's Scriptures

First Lesson – Isaiah 64:1-9

A Prayer for God's Mercy

1 Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence— 2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! 3 When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. 4 From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. 5 You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? 6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. 7 There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. 8 But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9 Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

Psalm of the Day – From Psalm 24

The King of Glory

P The earth is the LORD'S and the fullness thereof:

C The world and those who dwell therein.

P For he has founded it upon the seas:

C And established it upon the rivers.

P Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?:

C And who shall stand in his holy place?

P He who has clean hands and a pure heart:

C He will receive blessing from the God of his salvation.

P Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O 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 gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors:

C That the King of glory may come in.

P Who is this King of glory?:

C The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!

Second Lesson – Mark 13:32-37

No One Knows that Day or Hour

32 “But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. 35 Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— 36 lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

Sermon Text – 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul’s Greeting and Thanksgiving

1 Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, 2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, 5 that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— 6 even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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To our guests seeking an altar at which to commune

We believe the Lord's Supper is an expression of outward unity in the faith as well as inner union with Christ. For this reason we practice "Fellowship Communion" (we ask only those who are communicant members of our fellowship to come forward to receive the Sacrament). We follow this practice in loving obedience to the Scriptures, not in judgment of anyone's faith, sincerity, or standing before God. If you would like more information or are interested in becoming a St. Paul member, please speak to the pastor. Thank you.

This Week at St. Paul

Today (12/3)	9:30 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:45 am	Christmas Decorating
Sun (12/10)	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Christmas Potluck & Gift Bags Preparation (see announcement below)

Extended Calendar

- Choir Practices: Sunday, Dec.10,17,24, 8:30 am
- Children's Christmas Eve Service: Sunday, Dec.24, 6:30 pm
- Christmas Day Worship: Monday, Dec.25, 9:30 am

We Ask the Lord for His Continuing Gracious Care for our fellow members Ed Chiappetti, Ruth Claeys, and Pat Newton, in their health challenges. Also remember Wilma Oldfield (grandmother of Crystal Ruegge) who is in hospice care in Arizona. <> *"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, 'My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust'"* (Psalm 91:1-2).

December Birthday (Anniversary) Blessings To . . .

Ethel Eastridge, Dec 2	Karen Thompson, Dec 20
Willie Tiefel, Dec 8	Carrol Rankin, Dec 25
Brooke Peters, Dec 16	(Mike & Lisa Sprengeler, Dec 4)

Christmas Congregational Potluck: Next Sunday, Dec.10, is our annual potluck after church! Please bring whatever you would like – we always have plenty to eat! Mary & Martha ladies will also assemble the shut-in gifts on this day as well. This year, if you would like to contribute to this, we are taking only cash donations. You may put this in the offering plate in a marked envelope or give it directly to Lisa Sprengeler or Crystal Ruegge. Thank you!!

The Mary & Martha Ladies are also accepting donations for our Kinship sem student sponsorship which is coming due in January (annual amount: \$360). To make a contribution for this purpose:

- Place your gift in your offering envelope with “Mary/Martha Kinship” in the “OTHER” blank,
- Place your gift in a regular envelope marked “Mary/Martha Kinship” and place it in the collection, or
- Give your donation directly to ladies’ treasurer, Crystal Ruegge.

If you make a donation with a check make it out to “St. Paul Lutheran Church” with “Mary/Martha Kinship” on the memo line.

Synod News & Notes

A few months ago, it was announced that Barb Fleischer, wife of retired pastor Dan Fleischer, has ALS. Last week she had some further, extensive tests done by her neuromuscular neurologist because he was not completely satisfied with the previous data. Although her symptoms seem to be those of ALS, he now believes this may not be ALS. Further tests are scheduled to determine the cause of her continuing muscle weakness which are causing ambulation and other issues. Since Barb realizes many of her fellow Christians are praying for her - which she greatly appreciates - she wanted to share this news. During these last months she has been driven to the Lord’s promises found in His powerful Word so that even as her body gets weaker, her Spirit-given faith is growing stronger. *2 Corinthians 12:9 "And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."*

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

December 4-9

Mon Luke 1:68-75 Zechariah, filled with the Holy Spirit, holds his “miracle” baby in his arms, but speaks of the greater miracle: **salvation** from the hand of all enemies, so that God may be worshiped without fear, in holiness and righteousness all our days (v74-75).

Tues Luke 1:76-79 The son born to Zechariah in his old age will be important because he will prepare for the Lord who comes. That Rising Sun from on high (v78) will bring salvation by the forgiveness of sins.

Wed Revelation 1:4-6 John writes to seven churches in which the Spirit of God has been working, proclaiming to them the grace and peace which came by Jesus Christ, who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His own blood (v5). How we look forward to His coming!

Thur Revelation 1:7-8 The Lord who was pierced (with spear and nails) will come again in glory, not as the lowly child of Bethlehem, but with “clouds,” that is, with power and majesty. At the close of this book Jesus again promises to come as the Alpha and Omega, the Lord God Himself (22:13).

Fri Isaiah 61:1-3 Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, His work was laid out by the prophet: to preach good news, to bind up broken hearts, to proclaim freedom and release, the Lord’s favor and victory, to comfort mourners and provide them with beauty and joy.

Sat 2 Timothy 3:10-17 When things go from bad to worse, remember how God rescued His servants of old who proclaimed and clung to His Word. That Word will continue to equip us all to live our lives to our Savior’s glory.