

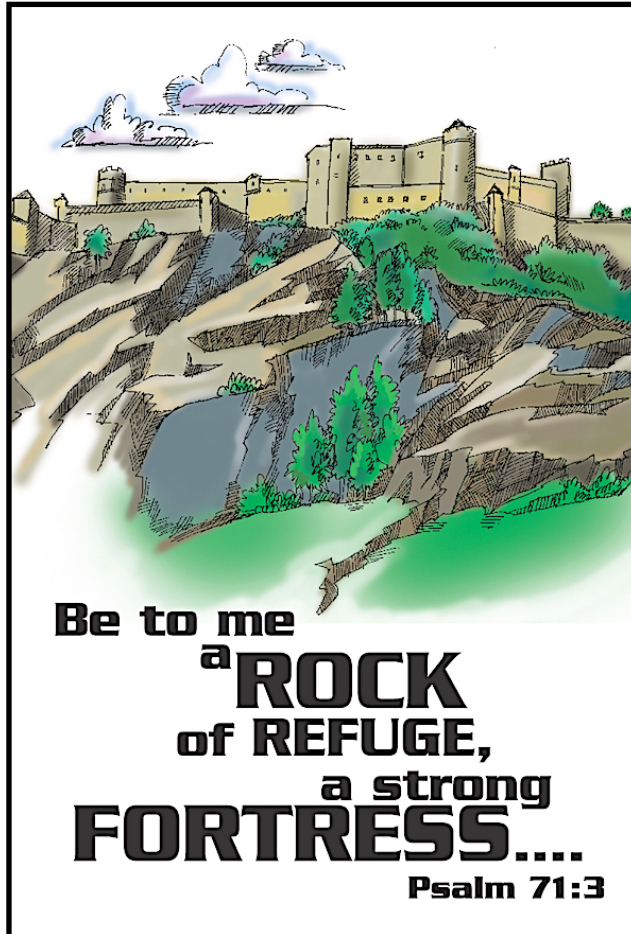
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

2470 Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80214

Pastor: Thomas Schuetze, 303-428-5524, trschuetze@yahoo.com

Congregation President: Ed Chiappetti, 303-882-1776

Sunday School Superintendent: Derek Barthels



Dear Father in heaven, we come to You for refuge. You are our Rock of strength and Fortress of protection against all that would harm us in body or spirit. In the days ahead, may we always realize You are there, willing and ready to aid us. Despite our best intentions, we still sin against Your holy will. Forgive and keep us in Your grace for the sake of Jesus. Amen.

www.denverlutheran.com

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

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



Sunday after Christmas (New Year's Eve) – December 31, 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). If you'd like to have a large print worship bulletin speak with an usher, who will be happy to share one with you.

Serving Us At God's House Today

Organist: Carly Mess

Ushers: Bob Rankin, Don Claeys

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 130 (pew bible, p.551)
- ◆ Today's Hymns: 380, *33, 392, 390 (**printed on p.7*)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: 1 Samuel 7:3-12, Luke 18:9-14
- ◆ Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

Sermon Text – Matthew 6:12a

Theme – "*Father in Heaven, Forgive Us Our Debts*"

1. Real debts. 2. Personal debts.
3. Debts You freely forgive through Jesus Your Son.

- ◆ Offering of Thankful Hearts
- ◆ Altar Prayer & Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction
- ◆ Closing Hymn (390)

Today's Scriptures

First Lesson – 1 Samuel 7:3-12

The Lord is Our Helper

3 And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, “If you are returning to the LORD with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroath from among you and direct your heart to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.” 4 So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtaroath, and they served the LORD only. 5 Then Samuel said, “Gather all Israel at Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you.” 6 So they gathered at Mizpah and drew water and poured it out before the LORD and fasted on that day and said there, “We have sinned against the LORD.” And Samuel judged the people of Israel at Mizpah. 7 Now when the Philistines heard that the people of Israel had gathered at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the people of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines. 8 And the people of Israel said to Samuel, “Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us, that he may save us from the hand of the Philistines.” 9 So Samuel took a nursing lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. And Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him. 10 As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel. But the LORD thundered with a mighty sound that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were defeated before Israel. 11 And the men of Israel went out from Mizpah and pursued the Philistines and struck them, as far as below Beth-car. 12 Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, “Till now the LORD has helped us.”

Psalm of the Day – From Psalm 39

Our Days On Earth are as Handbreadths

P O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days:

C Let me know how fleeting I am!

P Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you:

C Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!

P Surely a man goes about as a shadow! Surely for nothing they are in turmoil:

C Man heaps up wealth and does not know who will gather!

P And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?:

C My hope is in you.

P Deliver me from all my transgressions:

C Do not make me the scorn of the fool!

P When you discipline a man with rebukes for sin, you consume like a moth what is dear to him:

C Surely all mankind is a mere breath!

P Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears!:

C For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers.

Second Lesson – Luke 18:9-14

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: 10 “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Sermon Text – Matthew 6:12a

Fifth Petition of the Lord’s Prayer

And forgive us our debts.

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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 (12/31)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School (no Bible Class)
Sunday (1/7)	9:30 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:45 am	Sunday School
	10:45 am	Undecorating

Extended Calendar

- Mary/Martha Ladies Meeting: Sunday, January 14, 10:45 am
- Church Council Meeting, January 21, 8:30 am
- CLC Cooperative Budget Plan Presentation: Sunday, Jan.21, 10:45 am
- Annual Voters Meeting: Sunday, January 28, 10:45 am
- Installation of Church Officers: Sunday, February 4

In Our Prayers: The family of Lawrel Milne, brother of Linda Wamboldt, who departed this life week before last. <> Bobbie Brethauer who was hospitalized at the UC Health Medical Center in Longmont last Thursday with a blood infection. She is also receiving medical treatment for pneumonia. <> *"The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him" (Psalm 28:7).*

To the Parishioners of St. Paul: "I would like to express my appreciation for the cards and gifts you shared with me during the Christmas season and your expressions of Christian kindness through the year, also for the privilege of serving as your pastor for another year. The Lord's blessing to you all! Pastor Schuetze"

January Birthday Blessings To . . .

Jesse Cornish, Sr., Jan 11	Jim Wamboldt, Jan 16
Julie Whitmer-Wright, Jan 11	Crystal Ruegge, Jan 19
Jaydin Peters, Jan 14	Jesse Cornish, Jr., Jan 30

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

January 1-6

Mon Hebrews 13:8 When we remember how Jesus Christ sustained His people of old and how He has cared for us today, the fact that He is eternal gives us confidence to face every new year.

Tues Lamentations 3:22-32 Because God sent His Son to be our Savior, we can be sure that He will also show compassion in every event of 2024 that might threaten to consume us.

Wed Luke 2:22-32 Even as a helpless infant, Jesus was presented to God in accordance with the Law, fulfilling all righteousness for us. Simeon finds his comfort for life and death in this Child, the Lord's Christ!

Thur 2 Timothy 4:3-8 Paul, like Simeon (Lk2) is ready to depart this life whenever the Lord calls him (vv6-8). He warns Timothy of opposition in this world and urges him to carry on the ministry of the gospel (vv3-5).

Fri John 1:1-14 John, the fore-runner of the Light, prepared the way for Jesus, the true Light. Rescued by forgiveness, we behold the Savior's glory, full of grace and truth.

Sat Matthew 3:13-17 Epiphany! Fulfilling all righteousness for us includes Jesus being baptized by John. The Spirit descends, and the Father manifests Jesus' glory, declaring Him to be the very Son of God.

Hymn Before the Sermon

WORSHIP AND PRAISE

The Lord hath Helped Me Hitherto

33

1 Sam. 7: 12

Bis hieher hat mich Gott gebracht

Amilie Juliane, 1699

Tr., August Crull, 1882

8. 7. 8. 7. 8. 8. 7.

Allein Gott in der Höh'

Nikolaus Decius, 1539, asc.

1 The Lord hath helped me hith-er-to By His sur-pass-ing fa - vor;
2 I praise and thank Thee, Lord, my God, For Thine a-bun-dant bless-ing
3 Help me hence-forth, O God of grace, Help me on each oc-ca - sion,

His mer-cies ev - 'ry morn were new, His kind-ness did not wa - ver.
Which here-to-fore Thou hast be-stowed And I am still pos-sess-ing.
Help me in each and ev - 'ry place, Help me thro' Je - sus' Pas - sion;

God hith - er - to hath been my Guide, Hath plea-sures hith - er -
In - scribe this on my mem - o - ry: The Lord hath done great
Help me in life and death, O God, Help me thro' Je - sus'

to sup-plied, And hith - er - to hath helped me.
things for me And gra - cious-ly hath helped me.
dy - ing blood; Help me as Thou hast helped me! A - men.