

**ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO



**18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 4, 2020**

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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 WORD & SACRAMENT

(printed on liturgy insert inside front cover of maroon hymnal)

- ◆ Pre-service Devotion: Psalm 27 (pew bible, p.493)
- ◆ The Hymns: 814, 565, 628, *778 (*tan hymnal)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 55:6-9, Philippians 1:1-5, 19-27
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 25
- ◆ Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed (last page of liturgy insert)

Sermon Text – Matthew 20:1-16

AS YOU DO GOD'S WORK, THINK GOD'S WAY

1. Human thinking says: "You don't get something for nothing."
2. But God wants to give us what we haven't earned.

- ◆ Prayer & the Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Communion Liturgy (liturgy insert, pp.17-21)
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (778, tan hymnal)

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

*You may contribute an offering for God's kingdom work by
putting it in the collection plate located in the foyer. There
will be no offering collection during the service.*

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

First Lesson – Isaiah 55:6-9

6 Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. 8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. 9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Psalm of the Day – From Psalm 25

P To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul:
C In you I trust, O my God.
P Do not let me be put to shame:
C Nor let my enemies triumph over me.
P No one whose hope is in you:
C Will ever be put to shame.
P But they will be put to shame:
C Who are treacherous without excuse.
P Show me your ways, O LORD:
C Teach me your paths.
P Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior:
C And my hope is in you all day long.
P Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love:
C For they are from of old.

Second Lesson – Philippians 1:1-5,19-27

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 19 for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. 20 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me. 27 Whatever

happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel

Sermon Text – Matthew 20:1-16

1 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. 3 “About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. 4 He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ 5 So they went. “He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing. 6 About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ 7 “‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. “He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’ 8 “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’ 9 “The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. 10 So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. 11 When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 12 ‘These men who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’ 13 “But he answered one of them, ‘Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? 14 Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. 15 Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ 16 “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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VISITORS, WELCOME! The members of St. Paul are pleased to meet you and are happy that you are here to worship with us today. We are a congregation committed without reservation to the entire truth of God's Word, the Bible. We have found joy and hope in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have found moral guidance, a way of life, and the promise of eternal life in the Scriptures. It gives us pleasure to share these blessings with you. Please sign our guest book and come worship with us again!

SERVING US AT GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

- ◆ Organist: Jeana Kettner
- ◆ Ushers: Ed Chiappetti, Don Claeys
- ◆ Elder: Larry Reed
- ◆ Communion Assistant: Wayne Ruegge

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL

- Today (10/4) 8:30 am Church Council Meeting
 9:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion
 10:45 am Sunday School (Daniel, OT 54)
 10:45 am Adult Bible Class (Session 4 of 5 on the Great Commission)
- Sun (10/11) 9:30 am Mission Festival Worship Service
 10:45 am Sunday School & Bible Class

EXTENDED CALENDAR

- ◆ Church Movie Night: Friday, Oct.16, 7:00 pm
- ◆ Mary/Martha Ladies' Meeting: Sunday, Oct.18, 10:45 am
- ◆ Fall Clean-Up Day: Saturday, Oct.24 (8:00 am to noon)
- ◆ Quarterly Voters' Meeting: Sunday, Oct.25, 10:45 am
- ◆ Front Range Reformation Festival Service: Sunday, Nov.1, 3:30 pm (hosted by Redeemer, Cheyenne)

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY (ANNIVERSARY) BLESSINGS TO . . .

- Mark Hartmeister, Oct 1 Sharlene Chiappetti, Oct 29
John Sprengeler, Oct 8 (Mark & Susan Hartmeister, Oct 23)
Jaxon Potter, Oct 14

SYNOD NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Chad Seybt, pastor of Redeemer, Cheyenne, accepted the call to serve the tri-parish of Morning Star, Fairchild; Trinity, Millston; and Peace with God, Onalaska, WI. <> Stephen Sydow has accepted the call to serve as a part-time on-campus counselor at Immanuel Lutheran College, Eau Claire.
- The CLC Boards and Coordinating Council met September 21-23 on the campus of ILC. A summary of the meetings has been placed into your mailbox along with a message from the CLC president and devotions from the Board of Missions and Board of Regents. The CC summary can also be accessed at this address on the internet: www.tinyurl.com/CLC-CC-Sept2020
- The Board of Education at Immanuel Lutheran High School in Mankato, Minnesota invites all pastors, professors, male teachers, and voting members of member congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession to nominate an individual or individuals to fill our current vacancy. The called individual may be asked to teach courses in 7-12 Math and Science as well as Spanish 1 &2. There are also technology duties as a possibility. The position would begin with the 2021-2022 school year. If you have been prayerfully led to nominate someone, please verify that they are willing to be nominated and include their basic educational background and professional experience. Nominations should be received by email to Pastor Joe Naumann (pastorjoenaumann@gmail.com) by Sunday, October 18, 2020.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS
OCTOBER 5-10

Mon Isaiah 55:6-9 [Catch the sequence]: We should seek the LORD before it's too late, and mundane interests grow into barriers between us and the LORD. It happens all the time that a child of God neglects caring for his soul, soon partners up with the wicked, and lets his mind go into the gutter with the unrighteous. Let him return to the LORD, for He is waiting (6-7)! Don't underestimate God's good-heartedness, for God doesn't hold a grudge or nurse injured pride as humans do. He's superior to all that folderol (8-9)!

Tues Matthew 20:1-16 How does God operate? He acts as He wishes, sometimes using standard protocol and other times not. Those whom He puts at the head of the line had been hired last, who expect only whatever is right. What a generous landlord! All workers in God's vineyard receive whatever is right, for God simply cannot do what is NOT right for us.

Wed Philippians 1:18-27 Paul was receiving from God what was right, and he appreciated it—as per this confession: I rejoice, yes, and will continue to rejoice. He realized that God had placed him in police custody not to restrict him but to give him access to a whole new audience. His future did not matter, for Christ was being proclaimed; he banked on his Christian friends to understand the entire scenario and respond appropriately (27).

Thurs Psalm 27:7-14 Guilt and shame had imprisoned David's heart, but since he had learned that God was clement to repentant sinners, David called on God for mercy (7-10). Was his repentance genuine? Judging from his prayer, he wanted God to reform his life (11), defend him from the bad guys (12), and never abandon him. We are all learning to live that way (14).

Fri Luke 19:1-10 presents a case-book example of how God interacts with a sinner who seeks His face. That was Zacchaeus, a little man in more than one sense. He endured belittling by some (7) and wanted Jesus to know that he made himself little for others (8). Jesus looked into his heart, saw his faith, and reclaimed him. (9-10). [Have we made ourselves little before God?]

Sat Acts 17:10-15 Christians do what they can to help their shepherds avoid trouble and get on with God's work—and Paul moved forward to find Hebrews whom God had been preparing for the gospel (11). We admire the Bereans for their dedication to God and His Word—groundwork laid by the Holy Spirit for their salvation (12). But (wouldn't you know it!), wherever God is building His Church, Satan gets busy doing his dirty work (13). Satan pressured them but could not defeat them (14-15), hallelujah! Stay tuned.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS
SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 3 (catching up from last week)

Mon Genesis 50:15-21 It seems a round-about way to ask for forgiveness (claiming it was their father's request), but Joseph took it at face value. Joseph had a generous view of his experiences: You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good. And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them from his forgiving heart. No recriminations, but warm hugs; no guilt trips, but gentleness. They received better than they deserved – which reminds us of our own situation with the God whom we serve and represent to others.

Tues Matthew 18:21-35 Evidently Peter was leery of overdoing a good thing (21), so Jesus clarified (22) and composed a story to illustrate. We sinners must start with the realization that our indebtedness to God is so great that we can't possibly pay it off, and time-payments won't work, either, so God takes the matter out of our hands entirely (25-27). The rest of the parable is a scary warning against not loving our neighbors enough to forgive their sins.

Wed Romans 14:5-9 Back in the first century Christian congregations had members who had been raised Jewish, so Saturday was their customary day of worship, and kosher foods seemed right, too (5-7). Since that was OK with God, it was OK with gentile Christians. The child of God is generous about such things. We get along with one another, for we live together as God's children, and we thrive together under Jesus' lordship (8-9).

Thurs Psalm 103 Since we tend to be forgetful, let's remind ourselves how we stand with God (1-7). Because He is who He is, God has not dealt with us as we deserve (8-10) but chooses to rise above (11-13), pitying us for our lost condition (14). In contrast to our fragility (15-16), God's mercy is eternal (17-19). Therefore we join the angels and all His works in praising the LORD.

Fri Luke 10:25-28 Our salvation is based on debits and credits, for our sin-debits must be paid off with God-pleasing credits. Praise God that He is generous enough to credit us with Jesus' righteousness, and that closes our account. Is that OK with you? It's fine with me, and I thank Jesus for living His perfect life and for dying as my Substitute. [See also Romans 3:23-26.]

Sat Acts 17:1-9 The Holy Spirit was working on folks who were well versed in the Bible and its Messianic prophecies. We are told that Paul reasoned with them from the Scriptures, presenting evidence that Jesus matched the prophecies, so He qualified as Messiah. Paul explained God's program of salvation, demonstrating (from the Bible) that the only way humans can escape their doom is to turn from Self to Jesus' blood and righteousness (2-3). Some got convinced. Note: When He is working on adults, the Spirit engages the brain in order to gain access to the soul. Stay tuned.