

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO



**2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 6, 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 32 (pew bible, p.495)
- ◆ The Hymns: 903, 347, 343, 705
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 40:1-11, 2 Peter 3:8-14
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 85
- ◆ Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed (*last page of liturgy insert*)

Sermon Text – Mark 1:1-8

MAKE PROPER PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS BY BUILDING AN “ADVENT ROAD” – HOW?

1. Repent of your sins with a godly sorrow.
2. Look to Jesus with a heart of faith.



- ◆ Prayer & the Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Communion Liturgy (liturgy insert, pp.17-21)
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (705, 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 by the back pew.
There will be no offering collection during the service.*

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

First Lesson – Isaiah 40:1-11

1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. 5 And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." 6 A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. 7 The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever." 9 You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" 10 See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. 11 He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Psalm for the Day – From Psalm 85

P You showed favor to your land, O LORD:
C You restored the fortunes of Jacob.
P You forgave the iniquity of your people:
C And covered all their sins.
P Show us your unfailing love, O LORD:
C And grant us your salvation.
P I will listen to what God the LORD will say:
C He promises peace to his people, his saints.
P Surely his salvation is near those who fear him:
C That his glory may dwell in our land.
P Love and faithfulness meet together:
C Righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Second Lesson – 2 Peter 3:8-14

8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. 11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look

forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. 14 So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

Sermon Text – Mark 1:1-8

1 The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 It is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”— 3 “a voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” 4 And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 6 John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And this was his message: “After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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A CORDIAL GREETING AND WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS. We are pleased to have you worshiping 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.

SERVING US AT GOD’S HOUSE TODAY

Organist: Jeana Kettner

Ushers: Mark Hartmeister, Bob Rankin

Communion Assistant: Mike Sprengeler

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL

Today (12/6)	9:30 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:45 am	Sunday School
	10:45 am	Christmas Baskets Preparation
Sun (12/13)	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School

UPCOMING DECEMBER EVENTS

- ✦ Children's Christmas Eve Service Practice: Sunday, Dec.20, 10:45 am
- ✦ Children's Christmas Eve Service: Thursday, Dec.24, 6:30 pm
- ✦ Christmas Day Worship: Friday, Dec.25, 9:30 am
- ✦ NY's Eve Communion Service: Thursday, Dec.31, 7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS BASKETS: The Mary & Martha ladies are plan to prepare Christmas baskets after today's service for sharing with St. Paul members unable to regularly attend our services. (The traditional Christmas meal originally scheduled for today was cancelled due to Covid concerns.)

THANKS TO ALL WHO LENT A HELPING HAND with decking the halls of St. Paul last Sunday. Your assistance with the work of beautifying the Lord's house in preparation for the approaching festival of Christ's birth was much appreciated.

THANK YOU: Carrol Rankin wishes to express appreciation to those who shared cards of Christian support and encouragement during her recent surgery and stay at the hospital. We thank the Lord for blessing Carrol with a swift recovery from the surgery and for enabling her to return home so quickly. *"Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the LORD or fully declare his praise?" (Psalm 106:1-2).*

TOUR CHOIR CD: A new Immanuel Lutheran College Tour Choir CD was recently produced and is now available for purchase. If you are interested, see the information on the poster on the bulletin board in the church entry.

SYNOD NEWS

- ✦ Pastor Michael Gurath of Holy Cross, Phoenix, AZ returned the call to serve as the pastor of Redeemer, Cheyenne.
- ✦ Last Sunday afternoon the Lord graciously delivered Doris Hallauer, wife of retired pastor Elton Hallauer, from this vale of tears. Her victory service was held last Friday, December 4, at Bethel Lutheran Church in Morris, MN. (Elton Hallauer, you may recall, served the Lord in the pastoral ministry for many decades as well as serving for many years as our CLC vice-president.)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS
DECEMBER 7-12

Mon Isaiah 40:1-11 As we access the Gospel according to Isaiah (and since our hearts are still sinful hearts), we appreciate God telling us that He has developed a double-strength serum to overcome Earth's sin pandemic (1-2). Don't let anything stand in your way to get an immunity shot (3-5), for your life is on the line (6-8). Listen up to these good tidings, the good news (9) that the LORD God is welcoming you into His protective care (10-11).

Tues Mark 1:1-8 dials Isaiah's picture into sharper focus—that the voice crying in the wilderness is John's, and that preparing the roadway means repenting, confessing our sins, and receiving God's forgiveness (1-5). God had given John the awesome assignment of putting Jesus center-stage and in the limelight (7-8) while John opted to fade into the background (6-7).

Wed 2 Peter 3:8-14 Jesus arrived, did His job, and returned home. Now, why is He taking so long to bring down the curtain on planet Earth? He's holding back until He salvages every soul that can be salvaged (9). Meanwhile, we try to stay on top of things (11), looking forward and being diligent in every-which way to stay close to Jesus in our hearts and lives (14). Is it becoming burdensome for us to avoid hot-spots in our sin-diseased society?

Thurs Psalm 85 We are living in a parallel universe, parallel to olden times when God rescued His ancient people from Philistines, Egyptians, Assyrians, Persians, etc., but not from the Romans. Today our adversaries are more subtle but fully as dangerous, so God has taken care of our BIG adversary (2-3), and we depend on Him to revive us as we maneuver through life—day by day (4-7), holding tight to Jesus' righteousness and peace (10-13).

Fri Luke 3:15-18 Religious people tried to figure out if John might be the Chosen One (15), so John clarified (16) that he was but a lowly servant of the One who would baptize/ cleanse them with the Holy Spirit and bring them to Harvest (16-17). Those rural folks got the picture—and would shrink from the horrible fire which awaits those whose religion is unpalatable to God (18).

Sat Acts 19:11-20 We already knew that miracles are unusual, but these were so exceptional (11-12) that when some magicians/quacks tried to horn in on God's territory (13-14), God let a demon from hell set them straight (15-16). All of which boomeranged on Satan (17-18), for our fellow Christians came to realize that publications (or internet websites) which promote black magic, sorcery, or superstition are Satan's tools to captivate naïve persons. So by burning the books, our fellow Christians sent them back to hell where they belonged (19-20). In contrast, God has given us the Holy Bible, which leads souls from hell to heaven. We thank You, dear Lord Jesus!