

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO



4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 31, 2021

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 THE WORD

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

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 119:41-48 (pew bible, p.546)
- ◆ The Hymns: 804, 394, 696, 921
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Mark 1:21-29
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 119

Sermon Text – 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

WE ARE “FREE SERVANTS” OF CHRIST

1. We understand and rejoice in our Christian liberty.
2. We gladly restrict our freedom when love requires it.

- ◆ Presentation of the Offering
- ◆ Altar Prayer & Lord’s Prayer
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (921)

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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 – Deuteronomy 18:15-20

15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him. 16 For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, “Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die.” 17 The LORD said to me: “What they say is good. 18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. 19 If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. 20 But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death.”

Psalm of the Day – From Psalm 119

P Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees:
C Then I will keep them to the end.
P Give me understanding, and I will keep your law:
C And obey it with all my heart.
P Direct me in the path of your commands:
C For there I find delight.
P Fulfill your promise to your servant:
C So that you may be feared.
P How I long for your precepts!:
C Preserve my life in your righteousness.
P I lift up my hands to your commands, which I love:
C And I meditate on your decrees.
P I run in the path of your commands:
C For you have set my heart free.

Second Lesson – Mark 1:21-28

21 They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. 22 The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. 23 Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, 24 “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” 25 “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” 26 The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. 27 The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him.” 28 News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

Sermon Text – 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

1 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. 2 The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. 3 But the man who loves God is known by God. 4 So then, about

eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one. 5 For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), 6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. 7 But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. 8 But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. 9 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, won’t he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? 11 So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. 12 When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.

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A WARM WELCOME IN CHRIST TO OUR WORSHIP GUESTS. We’re glad for the opportunity to share with you the Gospel of forgiveness through Jesus! Please introduce yourself to the pastor and sign our guest book. We invite you to come worship with us again. If you would like to know more about St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church and our national organization, the Church of the Lutheran Confession, please speak with the pastor. He would be happy to call on you to share our confession and mission with you.

SERVING US AT GOD’S HOUSE TODAY

Organist: Carly Meyer; Usher: Bob Rankin

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL

Today 1/31)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School (The Temptation, NT 7)
	10:45 am	CBP Presentation (see note below)
	11:00 am	Bible Class
Sun (2/7)	8:30 am	Elders’ Meeting
	9:30 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:45 am	Sunday School (The First Miracle, NT 8)
	11:00 am	Bible Class

ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS – Copies of the reports presented at last Sunday’s Annual Meeting (by the pastor and treasurer) may be found on the shelf in the entry. Help yourself.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES – The first of six midweek Lenten services will be held at St. Paul on Ash Wednesday, February 17, at 7:00 pm. There will be the customary pulpit exchange with Prince of Peace, Loveland, and Redeemer, Cheyenne. Because of the pastoral vacancy in Cheyenne, two of our services will be “lay services.”

THE CLC COOPERATIVE BUDGET PLAN (CBP) for the new year will be presented after the worship service today. It will provide information on the projected financial needs for the various phases of the Lord’s work in our synod in the coming year. A special voters’ meeting will follow the presentation for the purpose of setting our 2021 CBP Estimate. This is the amount of offerings we will plan to contribute as a congregation towards the CLC General Fund in the new year.

Dorm Supervisor Positions: “After serving faithfully as dormitory supervisors (on our ILC campus in Eau Claire), both Gus Falkenberg and Beth Sandeen will be resigning at the end of this academic year. We thank them both for their faithful service to the LORD and for being such positive role models to our dorm students. ILC is accepting applicants for these two positions to begin the 2021-22 year, an adult male for the boys’ dorm and an adult female for the girls’ dorm. These roles are vital to our campus given how they provide spiritual counsel and a fatherly or motherly role to those students who are living away from home. Those who are CLC members in good standing and are able and willing to fill this position may contact ILC President Daniel Schierenbeck (dan.schierenbeck@ilc.edu/660.864.9231) for more information about the responsibilities and compensation for this position. An application is available online at ilc.edu > Forms and Applications > ILC Employment Application. Review of applications begins March 8.”

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS FEBRUARY 1-6

Mon Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Why do we return to the Old Testament every week? Because Jesus inhabits the Old Testament. He is the prime Prophet of God's Word, successor to Moses, and God's last Word on everything (15-18). Warning! This is not a game, so don't play loose with this Prophet, for you will be the loser (19-20). Further, we must close our ears and heart against impostors, who merit God's severe judgment (20). Lord, have mercy!

Tues Mark 1:21-28 Jesus attended church to teach God's Word, and some were impressed by His method and message (21-22). One man in particular needed help [why else was he there?], so Jesus, the Holy One of God, beat the devil on his own turf. Note: The devil may quote the Truth, but only to twist it, and the Holy Spirit doesn't want that kind of help (27-28).

Wed 1 Corinthians 8 Since Satan teaches people to depend on their own intellect (1-3), these new disciples needed much instruction about God vs. Satan (4-6). Further, they needed clarification that it was OK (not second-hand idolatry) to purchase meat left over from idol sacrifices and marketed in butcher shops. Nonetheless, Christians will be circumspect about where they go and what they do—so that their conduct doesn't influence others to copycat—and perhaps sin against their consciences by doing so (9-13).

Thurs Psalm 1 Ungodly people are so full of themselves that they coax godly people to quit being so "narrow-minded," and join them in bad behavior (1) – as though we don't enjoy communing with God anymore (2). God's children endure because they stay rooted where God can water them; they grow sturdy; they produce nutritious fruit; they survive and prosper. All of which stands in contrast to the ungodly (4-5). God help us to persevere (6)!

Fri Mark 1:22 There's more to be said about Mark's comment: for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Indeed, Jesus had authorization in triplicate, for He was self-authorized as the Word of God incarnate (John 1:14), authorized by His Father (John 5:27), and also by the Holy Spirit (John 16:13). Now, note how the twin phrases counter-balance one another: AS having authority vs. AS the scribes. Which means that the scribes were not authorized to speak for God, for they were transcribers, secretaries, technicians, and office drudges—but not His spokesmen.

Sat Acts 20:28-38 God's enemy is the enemy of God's children, and since it's open season on Christians, we defend one another from those who ballyhoo immorality, perversions, liberation theology, etc. (29-30). It's heart-breaking (31). How are we to get through the hard times ahead? By depending on God to hold us tight, while we sacrifice Self in service to others (32-35). Amen!