

# ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –  
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO



**5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
MAY 2, 2021**

# **ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)

[www.clclutheran.org](http://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 67 (pew bible, p.514)
- ◆ The Hymns: 730 (*tan hymnal*), 589 (1-3), 611, 589 (4)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Acts 8:26-40, 1 John 3:18-24
- ◆ Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed (last page of liturgy insert)

**Sermon Text – John 15:1-8**

### ***REMAIN IN JESUS, THE TRUE VINE***

through your pilgrim days

1. He alone can help you to maintain your spiritual vitality.
2. He alone can enable you to bear fruit for His Father's glory.
3. He alone will enable you to escape the coming fire of judgment.

- ◆ Presentation of the Offering
- ◆ Prayer & the Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Communion Liturgy (liturgy insert, pp.17-21)
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (589, stanza 4)

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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 – Acts 8:26-40

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." 27 So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. 29 The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." 30 Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. 31 "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. 33 In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth." 34 The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" 35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. 36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" 38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. 40 Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

### Easter Acclamation

- P** The Lord is risen!  
**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!  
**C** "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life," says the Lord. "No one comes to the Father except through Me."  
**P** Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more.  
**C** God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.  
**P** "I am the Vine, you are the branches," says the Lord. "Those who abide in Me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from Me you can do nothing."  
**C** "This is God's commandment, that we should believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us."  
**P** "By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."  
**C** "I go to prepare a place for you," says the Lord.  
**P** "I will come again and will take you to Myself, so that where I am, there you may be also."  
**C** The Lord is risen indeed!

## **Second Lesson – 1 John 3:18-24**

18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 19 This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence 20 whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. 24 Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

## **Sermon Text – John 15:1-8**

1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

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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, Jeana Kettner; Ushers, Wayne and Zachary Ruegge  
Communion Usher, Wayne Ruegge

**THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL**

Today (5/2)	8:30 am	Elders' Meeting
	9:30 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:45 am	Sunday School
	10:45 am	Bible Class
Sun (5/9)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School
	10:45 am	Bible Class

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

West Central Delegate Conf, Valentine NE, Tue-Thu, May 25-27  
CLC Convention, Eau Claire WI, Thu-Sun, June 24-27

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Jo Blakey who has been dealing with a stomach ailment. <> The Jesse Cornish family who are dealing with Covid in their family circle (son Jesse Jr. came down with Covid two weeks ago, mom Shelly and son Jacob more recently). <> *"Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds His people from this time forth and forever"* (Psalm 125:1-2).

**THANK YOU:** Willa Mae Janssen expresses her thanks to all who shared cards of Christian encouragement following her recent fall. She reports that her healing and recuperation are going well under the Lord's blessing. <> *"Praise be to the LORD, for he has heard my cry for mercy. The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped"* (Psalm 28:6-7).

**COPIES OF THE QUARTERLY REPORTS** shared by the pastor and treasurer at the April 25 Voters' Meeting may be found on the shelf under the tract rack. Help yourself.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT:** We are still looking for someone to fill the position of Sunday School Superintendent for the 2021-2022 school year. If you are interested in serving the Lord in this capacity please inform the pastor or President Ed Chiappetti. The duties of the Sunday School Superintendent include:

- Preparation of the Sunday School lesson schedule for the coming year in consultation with the Pastor ... assist the Pastor to identify possible teachers for the coming year ...
- Begin Sunday School sessions downstairs immediately after the worship service in an orderly fashion: snack, opening and/or prayer, music practice, guide students to their rooms ...
- Arrange for on-the-spot teaching for visitors/newcomers, answer teachers questions/concerns (the Superintendent may also serve as a regular teacher or may need to teach a class on-the-spot in the absence of a teacher) ...
- Obtain teacher supplies as needed ... also snack items for school opening ...
- Check regularly to see Sunday School rooms are ready for use and clean ... check that supplies in Sunday School rooms are kept in order ...
- Copy Sunday School lessons from masters as needed ... maintain the Sunday School lesson filing cabinet ...
- Assist the Pastor with the Christmas Eve Program including Saturday practices, get gifts for Christmas Eve participants, help with Christmas sacks if needed.

If you have questions or desire more information, please speak with Mike Sprengeler. All adult members of St. Paul are eligible to serve as the Sunday School superintendent.

#### **SYNOD NEWS**

- Pastor Tom Naumann, Mt. Zion, Detroit, MI has been called by Redeemer, Cheyenne <> Soon-to-be Immanuel Lutheran College teacher graduate Ben Hansen has accepted the call to St. John's, Okabena, MN. <> Mrs. Beth Sandeen, member at Messiah Lutheran, Eau Claire, WI, has received the call to serve as ILC's part-time on-campus mentor, the female counterpart in the on-campus counseling program, beginning in the 2021-22 academic year. This role is to complement Mr. Steve Sydow in his current role as the part-time on-campus counselor.
- Pastoral vacancies currently exist at: Eden Prairie, MN; Morris, MN; Sister Lakes, MI; Bowdle/Ipswich, SD (dual parish); and Cheyenne, WY

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS

### MAY 3-8

**Mon Acts 8:26-39** God's Holy Spirit threw out the lifeline and pulled this Ethiopian cabinet official aboard so he could learn that God included him in His search-and-rescue-mission. He had already been brought to understand God's methodology (a Substitute would suffer and die for sinners), and he wanted to know more specifics (34). What a flood of blessings God showered on him before the sun went down that evening (36-39)!

**Tues John 15:1-8** As the parent vine supplies nutrients to its branches, in due season they sprout, blossom, and develop fruit. But did you know that the life span of each fruiting branch is limited to one season and must be pruned away so that next spring a new twig will sprout in its place? Pruning phases out the old and activates the new. God grant that our children fill in the gaps we leave behind, sprout, and bear their fruit in due season!

**Wed 1 John 3:18-24** *In deed* is the opposite of *in word*, just as the gridiron athlete outclasses an armchair athlete. Does not our conscience condemn us for not loving our neighbors in their needs? We know we fall short, and so does God—but He understands us and still loves us (18-21). BTW, *commandments* means directives for God-pleasing conduct.

**Thurs Psalm 67** First things first: "God, be merciful to us and bless us, smile upon us and our efforts to laud you at home and abroad as Savior (1-2). God, apply Your skills and muscle to rescue souls so that people of all nations will come around and praise You as the Judge whom they will face from behind the protecting shield of Jesus (3-5)." That's the Christian stance, the very stance which promotes many collateral advantages (6-7). Praise the Lord!

**Fri John 15:7** deserves more than passing attention, so we ask, "What's the importance of the qualifier: '*If My words abide in you*'? It's the crucial factor of being bonded to Jesus when we are bonded to His Word. Jesus repeats this in ch. 14:23-24, also in ch. 17:6,8,14,17, and John summarizes his entire Gospel enterprise in verses 30-31 of ch. 20. Blessed are they who hear the Word of God, hold onto it in their hearts, and live according to it! Amen!

**Sat Acts 24:14-27** The crux of Paul's case was his commitment to the Bible teaching of Resurrection (15). Felix, the civil magistrate, adjourned the court proceedings in order to summon Lysias, the Roman officer who had rescued Paul from the mob back in Jerusalem. During those weeks of waiting, the Holy Spirit nudged Mr.&Mrs. Felix to pay attention to Paul's theology—which set them back on their heels (24-26). Two years later Paul's case was still on the docket (27), but being under house arrest did not stop him from telling the truth about Jesus, God's gift to humanity. Stay tuned.