

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO



FESTIVAL OF PENTECOST
MAY 23, 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 51 (pew bible, p.507)
- ◆ The Hymns: 913, 500, 703 (1-4), 703 (5)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Acts 2:1-21, John 14:25-27
- ◆ Confession of Faith: Third Article of the Apostles' Creed with Martin Luther's Explanation (bulletin, p.6)

Sermon Text – Ezekiel 37:1-14

***PRAISE GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT,
THE ALL-POWERFUL ANIMATOR OF YOUR SOUL!***

- ◆ Presentation of the Offering
- ◆ Prayer & the Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (703, stanza 5)

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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 2:1-21

1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. 5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: “Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” 13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.” 14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. 20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. 21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

Responsive Psalm – From Psalm 51

P O Lord, open my lips,
C And my mouth will declare your praise.
P You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
C You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
P The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
C A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
P Create in me a pure heart, O God:
C And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
P Do not cast me from your presence:
C Or take your Holy Spirit from me.
P Restore to me the joy of your salvation
C And grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
P Then I will teach transgressors your ways:
C And sinners will turn back to you.

Second Lesson – John 14:25-27

25 “All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Sermon Text – Ezekiel 37:1-14

1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2 He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. 3 He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "O Sovereign LORD, you alone know." 4 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! 5 This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. 6 I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'" 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. 8 I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. 9 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army. 11 Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' 12 Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. 14 I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.'"

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WELCOME TO ALL in the name of our Savior-God, who without any merit on our part gave His unique Son, Jesus Christ, into death to atone for our sins. As we ponder the marvelous grace of God this day, may His Holy Spirit accompany our worship and fellowship.

A SPECIAL WELCOME IN CHRIST TO OUR WORSHIP GUESTS. 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 Holy Scriptures. It gives us pleasure to share these blessings with you. Please sign our guest book and come worship with us again!

LITURGICAL NOTES FOR THE FESTIVAL OF PENTECOST – Pentecost, fifty days after the celebration of our Lord's resurrection, was originally a Jewish feast, known also as the Feast of Weeks. It was a celebration of the grain harvest. Bread made from the new grain was offered in the temple. As the day Christ's promise concerning the coming of the Spirit was fulfilled, it has become in a sense the birthday celebration of the New Testament Church. Early Christians connected the old celebration of the fruits of the earth's harvest with the fruits of the Spirit's blessing. The color of the paraments is red, the symbolic color for fire, reminiscent of the tongues of fire by which the Spirit revealed His presence to the disciples.

SERVING US AT GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

Organist, Carly Meyer; Ushers, Wayne and Zachary Ruegge

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL

Today (5/23)	9:30 am	Pentecost Festival Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School (last class for the year)
	10:45 am	Bible Class
Tue-Thu		West Central Delegate Conf, Valentine NE
Sun (5/30)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Bible Class

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirmation Sunday (for Jesse Cornish): Sun, June 6
CLC Convention, Eau Claire WI: Thu-Sun, June 24-27
St. Paul Church Dedication 20th Anniv Service: Sun, Aug 29, 3:00 pm

THE WEST CENTRAL DELEGATE CONFERENCE will be held this week Tuesday through Thursday at Grace Lutheran, Valentine, NE. Fred Brethauer, Don Claeys, and Pastor Schuetze will serve as representatives of St. Paul.

CLC CONVENTION INFO – The theme for this year's convention is "*Still Our Great Commission: 'Make Disciples of All Nations'*". Two essays under this theme will be delivered: "*Jesus Provides the Means*" (by Luke Bernthal, pastor of St. Stephen, Mountain View and Hayward, CA) and "*Jesus Promises His Presence*" (by Mike Schierenbeck, member of Luther Memorial, Fond du Lac, WI). Pastor Schuetze and Fred Brethauer will serve as representatives of St. Paul. The dates are June 24-27. Copies of the Convention Prospectus are available for viewing and printing at this internet address: tinyurl.com/clcprosp-21 (or see Pastor if you would like a hard copy). **NOTE:** We are still in need of an additional lay delegate to represent St. Paul at the convention. If you're able to serve in this way, please inform Pastor Schuetze.

REMINDERS

- An eMinistry/Website Questionnaire was distributed to St. Paul parishioners last Sunday. A reminder to return your completed questionnaire if you've not yet done so (you can give it to Pastor, place it in his church mailbox, or mail it to the church). The purpose of the questionnaire is to solicit information from our membership regarding how many are utilizing the devotional materials emailed to our members on a weekly basis and how many are using our Website. This will be helpful to St. Paul Congregation as we seek to minister to the spiritual needs of our membership.
- The time for renewing St. Paul's bulk group subscriptions to the *Lutheran Spokesman* magazine and *Daily Rest* devotion book is drawing near. If you would like to join with others in our congregation to subscribe to one or both of these publications please inform Pastor so he may add your name to the subscription list. If you are already a subscriber, your subscription will automatically be renewed. The annual subscription rate for the *Spokesman* is \$14; for *Daily Rest* (four quarterly issues) it is \$15. To pay for your subscription(s) include the amount in your church offering envelope (or other envelope) earmarked "*Spokesman*" and/or "*Daily Rest*."

- “*The Branches* is a publication designed and published by women of the CLC. It’s time to renew, subscribe for the first time, or purchase gift subscriptions for others in your life who may benefit. A subscription makes a great, year-long gift. \$15 for four 24-page issues each year” (for instruction on how to subscribe, see the poster on the bulletin board).
- Volunteers are needed to help with mowing the church lawn in the coming weeks & months of summer. If you’re able to help, please sign your name to the mowing schedule posted on the bulletin board.

Thank You Note from Jyothi Benjamin (spiritual leader of the Church of the Lutheran Confession of India (CLCI)).

Dear CLC and CLCI, Thank you for all your prompt Prayers regarding my covid ICU situation. Scripture instructs us to “let our requests be made known to God.” Philippians 4:6 “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” Now here is the proof that our Lord can do wonders through Prayers. Still in ICU, but doing much better. Thank you, Jyothi

Jyothi was hospitalized on May 15 in the ICU in Hyderabad, suffering from Covid. His brother reported last Wednesday that his condition is now stable and improving, for which we thank the Lord.

CONFESSION OF FAITH FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY

THE THIRD ARTICLE
(*About Sanctification*)

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reasoning or effort believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, nor come to Him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified, and kept me in true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all sins to me and all believers.

On the last day He will raise me and all the dead and give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life.

This is most certainly true.

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DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS
MAY 24-29

Mon Ezekiel 37:1-14 In ch. 36 God prepped Ezekiel to expect renewal for Israel, but this visit to the cemetery was a shock, all the same. The skeletons responded to the LORD's command and to His breath of life -- illustrating the miracle of new life God was preparing for dead Israel. God does this miracle every time He enlivens a dried-up soul by His Spirit delivered via His Word. His Pentecost miracle is still functioning in our world. Thank You, Lord Jesus.

Tues John 14:25-27 Jesus prepped His disciples to await the Holy Spirit of the Trinity, Jesus' replacement in the classroom of life. The Spirit reviews what Jesus spoke, so that Jesus' words will never be forgotten. Bottom line: The Holy Spirit uses Jesus' words to deliver God's merciful forgiveness, which brings peace to troubled, fearful hearts. We know; we were/are there.

Wed Acts 2:1-21 Jesus gave His spin on the agricultural festival of Pentecost by sending His Holy Spirit down to Earth, enabling the disciples to break the language barrier, preaching the good news of forgiveness in a way that really resonated with foreigners (5-14). Peter clarified that God had pre-programmed Pentecost into Israel's history (14-21). **How great Thou art!**

Thurs Psalm 51:10-14 Yes, the *Offertory* (*TLH* 12, 22) quotes this psalm after we have confessed our sins (1-6) and are assured that God still loves us. In the *Offertory* we tunefully beseech God to keep up His good work, to enliven us with His Spirit to live in harmony with Him (13). That's a psalm/prayer worth rehearsing and repeating every day of our lives.

Fri Luke 12:32-34 If your world has shrunk, narrowed by illness, sorrow, or other limitations -- you will benefit from God's assurance that you belong to His flock. Though it be a small flock, He delights to center His attention on each member and shares His treasures with every member (33). His treasury is supported without taxes, is safe from terrorists and cyber attack, secure against inflation and/or depression -- a treasure "out-of-this-world"!

Sat Acts 26:12-18 [If you want more details, check out the accounts in Acts 9:1-16 and 22:6-16.] Jesus explained: He stopped Paul in his tracks because He wanted to use Paul as His spokesman. But why choose such a renegade? Because Paul was the best example of what Jesus can do: He can turn the worst sinner into a messenger of God's grace and mercy. God can change the most hostile, obnoxious hater of Jesus into the opposite. Paul's intense personality, his toughness, and his resiliency would be useful when he testified that Jesus had acquired salvation, so hostile Jews would repent and receive forgiveness of their sins. Praise the Lord! Stay tuned for further developments.