

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO



“What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.” Mark 4:30-32.

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**3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JUNE 13, 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 insert inside front cover of maroon hymnal)

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 67 (pew bible, p.)514
- ◆ The Hymns: 868, 830 772 (*tan hymnal*), 577
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: 1 Corinthians 3:1-7, Matthew 13:24-30
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 67
- ◆ Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (*liturgy insert, p.15*)

Sermon Text – Mark 4:26-34

KINGDOM WORK IS A MATTER OF (SPIRIT-GIVEN) FAITH!

1. ...that God's Word is working.
2. ... that God's Church is growing.

- ◆ Presentation of the Offering
- ◆ Prayer & Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction
- ◆ Closing Hymn (577)

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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 – 1 Corinthians 3:1-7

1 Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? 4 For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere men? 5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

Psalm of the Day – From Psalm 67

P May God be gracious to us and bless us:
C And make his face shine upon us.
P May your ways may be known on earth:
C Your salvation among all nations.
P May the nations be glad and sing for joy:
C For you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.
P May the peoples praise you, O God;
C May all the peoples praise you.
P Then the land will yield its harvest:
C And God, our God, will bless us.
P God will bless us:
C And all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Second Lesson – Matthew 13:24-30

24 Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. 26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. 27 “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ 28 “ ‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. “The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ 29 “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

Sermon Text – Mark 4:26-34

26 He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. 27 Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows,

though he does not know how. 28 All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. 29 As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.” 30 Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. 32 Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.” 33 With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. 34 He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

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A WARM WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP GUESTS. The members of St. Paul are pleased to meet you and glad that you are here to worship with us today. We are a congregation committed without reservations to the entire Truth of God’s Word, the Bible. We have found joy and hope in the Gospel of 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. We invite you to sign our guest book and to come worship with us again!

SERVING US AT GOD’S HOUSE TODAY

Organist, Suzannah Miller
Usher, Bob Rankin

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL

Today (6/13)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Bible Class (Convention <i>Prospectus</i> Presentation, Part 1)
Sun (6/20)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Bible Class (Convention <i>Prospectus</i> Presentation, Part 2)

UPCOMING EVENTS

CLC Convention, Eau Claire WI: Thu-Sun, June 24-27
Summer Clean-Up Day: Sat, July 17 (8 to noon)
St. Paul Church Dedication 20th Anniv Service: Sun, Aug 29, 3:00 pm

MEETINGS

Mary/Martha Ladies: Sun. July 11, 10:45 am
Church Council: Sun. July 18, 10:45 am
Quarterly Voters: Sun. July 25, 10:45 am
Elders: Sun. August 1, 8:30 am

CONVENTION PROSPECTUS PRESENTATION – A PowerPoint slide presentation will be shared in two installments after the worship service today and next Sunday. It will provide information in summary form on items to be considered and acted upon at the upcoming CLC Convention in Eau Claire. Copies of the complete *Prospectus* may be viewed from this address on the internet: tinyurl.com/clcprosp-21. Lord-willing, representatives serving St. Paul at the Convention (scheduled for Thursday–Sunday, June 24-27) will be Fred Brethauer and Pastor Schuetze. Fred will serve on Floor Committee #6 (Membership/Constitution). Pastor Schuetze will serve on Floor Committee #5 (Finances). We are still looking for a second lay delegate to represent St. Paul at the Convention. It's not too late to volunteer (all voting members are eligible to serve in this way). Our second lay delegate would serve on Floor Committee #3 (Missions). A video titled "*HOW DOES CONVENTION WORK?*" was produced a few years ago by Board of Education member Rick Nelson, narrated by Pastor Luke Bernthal and others. You can watch it by logging in to the CLC Website (clclutheran.org), scrolling down, and clicking on "CONVENTION 2021." Be encouraged to take time to do this! The video is about 14 minutes in length.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Rachel Naumann (wife of Pastor Joe Naumann of Mankato MN) and their unborn child. From an email note received from Pastor Naumann last Sunday: "Yesterday afternoon my wife's water broke. She is currently 22 weeks pregnant. We went into the Emergency Room in Mankato and the doctors decided to transfer her up to the University of Minnesota hospital in the Twin Cities. She will be hospitalized until the baby is delivered. They are hoping that she lasts until 34 weeks without giving birth ... Please pray in your services this weekend that the Lord would keep the baby growing healthy and strong in Rachel for as long as possible according to His good and gracious will. *Psalm 139:13-17 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!*"

SYNOD NEWS & NOTES

- ◆ **KINSHIP COVID Aid** – With the recent surge of COVID infections in Asia, our brothers and sisters in Christ in India, Nepal, Myanmar, and Bangladesh are suffering as they struggle to stay healthy and provide for daily necessities due to the lockdown measures that are being strictly enforced. Both the CLCI and BELC report deaths of pastors and members. Also, Pastor Jyothi in India was hospitalized and was very near death. He was able to receive care in an ICU bed for a few weeks where he received life saving treatments while he was unconscious for several days. We thank our Savior that Jyothi has recently been released from the hospital and is staying with a relative near the hospital. He is currently receiving oxygen and injections to prevent blood clots. With all of this and more, the CLC Board of Missions and the KINSHIP Committee have decided to provide financial help to assist with humanitarian efforts and medical bills. Offerings to the KINSHIP General Fund will help with this effort to help those who are suffering in Asia at this time. Please remember our brethren in your prayers! (check out this article for an idea of the scope of the issue in Asia: <https://www.indiatoday.in/coronavirus-outbreak/story/of-sars-and-saarc-fear-of-covid-mutant-looms-over-south-asia-1810141-2021-06-02>)

- ◆ **Health Update** (from Pastor Frank Gantt who was hospitalize recently with a blood disorder): *“Brothers, Thanks for all your prayers and Gospel reminders. The Great Physician has heard your prayers on my behalf, preserving me both in body and soul thus far. While there is still some physical danger, the risk is significantly mitigated now to the point that the doctor has signed release papers for me to be discharged and to take it easy for a couple of weeks before returning to a normal work load. Now I just have figured out what a normal workload is. Thank you all, and God's peace to you. Frank”*

- ◆ **Call News** – Pastor Sam Rodebaugh of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven FL, has returned the call by Redeemer of Cheyenne. <> Jessica Krueger accepted the call as co-principal at Faith Lutheran School, Markesan WI.

- ◆ **The CLC Main Webpage** has undergone a makeover. You can check it out at this address: clclutheran.org.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS
JUNE 14-19

Mon Genesis 3:8-15 Adam hid in the bushes, for he was ashamed of himself. When God pressed him to confess and repent, he played the blame-game, and so did Eve. Satan had ruined God's dear children, but One greater than Satan thwarted Satan's game-plan by putting Jesus between us and Satan (15). We love Him who first loved us; thank You, dear Lord Jesus.

Tues Mark 3:20-35 Jesus didn't need buffers, for He was fully capable of defending Himself – with logic that was right-on (23-27). [Bad-mouthing Jesus is the same as bad-mouthing the Holy Spirit (28-30).] When His relatives tried to take Him home, He chose to remain with His spiritual family. Bottom line: One's blood relatives must come in second-best to God's family.

Wed 2 Corinthians 4:13-18 We trust God to treat us as He treated Jesus (13-14); therefore we do not lose heart (no matter how stressful life can get) because we know God is following His own recipe for our blessing. IOW, we overlook the stuff that's temporary and focus on blessings that are eternal.

Thurs Psalm 51:1-6 We know the drill: Don't face God until you face yourself; If you can't (or won't) face up to your cheating on God and your fellowmen, don't ask God to be nice. We are derelicts because we were born that way (5), and we are on a learning curve spiritually. For all these reasons we throw ourselves on God's mercy—which means we go to the foot of the Cross.

Fri Luke 8:22-25 We feel the sting of Jesus' question: "Where is your faith?" Do we come to Jesus only after we have gotten too exhausted to do anything else? Jesus ought not be our last resort – but our ally in all of life's difficulties. Let's not be backward about "awakening" Him to our problems; He has put Himself into the same boat with us – to share our difficult times and to use His powerful influence to calm our troubled waters.

Sat Acts 27:13-38 The tensions were mounting for crew and passengers; their cargo/passenger vessel was being blown every which way, day and night, for two weeks; they were half-starved, sea-sick, groggy from lack of sleep, and they needed HELP. Paul knew God would rescue them in His own good time and in the best way (21-26) – as long as nobody cheated (27-32). God was teaching 276 people a good lesson, and they seemed to be catching on (35-38) that when you are facing death, it's high time to throw your excess baggage overboard and lighten yourself for the swim to safety. [That is, throw your burden of sins into the sea of God's forgiveness, and use Jesus as your life-jacket to carry you safely to the shore of eternal salvation.] Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us! Amen.