

# **St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**

– Church of the Lutheran Confession –  
Lakewood, Colorado



The Conversion of St. Paul (Acts 9:1-22)

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**4th Sunday after Epiphany  
January 29, 2017**

# St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

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(303) 233-5000 – [www.denverlutheran.com](http://www.denverlutheran.com)

Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)  
[www.clclutheran.org](http://www.clclutheran.org)

Thomas Schuetze, pastor (303-428-5524)  
Larry Reed, president – Mike Sprengeler, SS Superintendent  
Ruth Greening, Suzannah Miller, Lisa Sprengeler, organists

## 4th Sunday after Epiphany – January 29, 2017

Pre-Service Devotion	Psalm 51 (red hymnal, p.134)
Order of Morning Worship	Tan hymnal, p.12
The Hymns	37, 388, 778, 391
Scripture Lessons	Matthew 17:22–18:4, 1 Corinthians 15:3-11
Psalm of the Day	From Psalm 119

### Sermon Text – Acts 9:1-22

### **GOD'S GRACE IN CHRIST MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE!**

1. For St. Paul the Apostle.
2. For the members of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Offering of Our Hearts and Gifts

Prayers & the Lord's Prayer

Benediction & Closing Hymn, 391

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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.

Since Jesus wants little children to come to Him, we encourage parents to bring them regularly. Please be patient while our children are learning to worship with the congregation. Parents, if you need a place to quiet crying infants, our cry room is available next to the sanctuary, with sound, as is the downstairs. Note to all: Please check that your cell phones are turned off. Thank you.

### **Hymn Board Hints**

- Hymns with a red marker in front of them are from the red hymnal.
- Hymns with a tan marker in front of them are from the tan hymnal.

Large print bulletins are available on the shelf by the guest book.

## **Today's Scriptures**

### **First Lesson – Matthew 17:22–18:4**

Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful. When they had come to Capernaum, those who received the temple tax came to Peter and said, "Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?" He said, "Yes." And when he had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers?" Peter said to Him, "From strangers." Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free. Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you." At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. [NKJV]

### **Psalm of the Day – From Psalm 119**

- P The unfolding of your words gives light:
- C It gives understanding to the simple.**
- P I open my mouth and pant:
- C Longing for your commands.**
- P Turn to me and have mercy on me:
- C As you always do to those who love your name.**
- P Direct my footsteps according to your word:
- C Let no sin rule over me.**
- P Make your face shine upon your servant:
- C And teach me your decrees.**
- P Your statutes are my heritage forever:
- C They are the joy of my heart.**
- P My heart is set on keeping your decrees:
- C To the very end.**

### **Second Lesson – 1 Corinthians 15:3–11**

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

### **Sermon Text – Acts 9:1-22**

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

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#### Symbol of St. Paul



St. Paul has the sword assigned to him because he was a persecutor of the Church. The book is a symbol of his conversion to faith in Christ as his Savior through the Word and his becoming the greatest preacher of the Gospel. The great change God worked in the heart of St. Paul shows itself in this, that he afterward describes the Word of God as "the sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:17). The Festival of the Conversion of St. Paul is January 25.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today (1/29)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School (Joseph Sold into Slavery, OT 14)
	10:45 am	CLC Cooperative Budget Plan Informational Meeting
	11:00 am	Bible Class
Sunday (2/5)	8:30 am	Elders' Meeting
	9:30 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:45 am	Sunday School (Joseph In Egypt, OT 15)
	10:45 am	Special Voters' Meeting ( <i>see note below</i> )
	11:00 am	Bible Class

### SERVING US AT GOD'S HOUSE DURING JANUARY

- Ushers: Bob Rankin, Mark Hartmeister
- Elder: Ed Chiappetti
- Communion assistant: Mike Sprengeler

### SERVING US AT GOD'S HOUSE DURING FEBRUARY

- Ushers: Darrick Peters, Don Claeys
- Elder: Mike Sprengeler
- Communion assistant: Larry Reed

**INFORMATIONAL MEETING:** The CLC Cooperative Budget Plan for fiscal year 2018 will be presented after the service today. It will provide information about the needs of our synod for the various phases of the Lord's work in our church body in the coming year.

**A SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING** will be held next Sunday after the service. There are two agenda items: a review and decision on the level of the Pastor's financial support for the coming year and a decision on the Cooperative Budget Plan (CBP) support from St. Paul to the CLC this coming year.

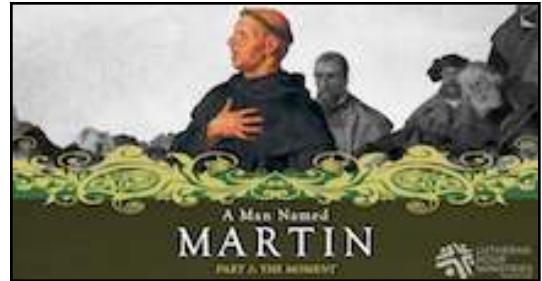
### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY (ANNIVERSARY) BLESSINGS TO . . .

Amanda Maestas, Feb 1	Amanda Morgan, Feb 17
Hayden Botchek, Feb 2	Don Claeys, Feb 20
Paul Eastridge, Feb 3	Jessica Bell, Feb 28
Mike Sprengeler, Feb 5	(Chuck & Joanne Seelye, Feb 16)

**2017 DIRECTORY UPDATES:** A new St. Paul Directory will be printed soon. Please pass along to the pastor any recent changes for your listing so they may be included in the new directory (if you have not already done so). Thank you!

**2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES** and 2016 Contribution Reports have been distributed. If you did not receive either of these or have questions, please contact Treasurer Wayne Ruegge.

**COMING SOON:** A movie night will be held at the church on Friday, February 10. The movie to be shown is titled "*A Man Named Martin – Part 2: The Moment*." It is a follow-up to *A Man Named Martin – Part 1: The Man* (which was shown at our church in October). "From Luther's inner struggles of conscience and faith to his call for debate with the Pope to his scathing rebuke of erroneous church practice, this installment examines the unscriptural teachings of the late Medieval Church and how Luther addressed them. From purgatory, penance, and indulgences to the treasury of merits of Christ, Masses for the dead, and the institution of the Papacy, Luther—and other like-minded reformers—had information overload on their hands. Joining forces in examining these false teachings and the role Martin Luther had in debating and, ultimately, rejecting them is a cast of scholars, professional church workers, and pastors, who add their insight and expertise to this fascinating period in the life of Martin Luther" (adapted from the DVD back cover). The movie will be shown in the church basement. Time: 7:00 pm. Running time: 65 minutes. Popcorn and refreshments will be served.



## Daily Bible Readings for Epiphany Devotions

### January 30 – February 4

**Mon 1 Kings 19:9-18** Both Jezebel and Elijah had lessons to learn, and both were slow learners. Both underestimated God's sovereignty, and both suffered because of it. However, Jezebel set herself against God, while God supported Elijah (5-13) and entrusted him with three BIG assignments (15-17)—in behalf of “the remnant.”

**Tues Matthew 14:22-33** When His disciples were at the end of their rope, Jesus arrived to cheer them up, rescue Peter, shut down the storm, and reinforce their faltering faith. Faith in what? Faith in Jesus as their Savior—which is surely an epiphany miracle.

**Wed 1 Corinthians 3:1-11** Since nobody is perfect, epiphany is on-going for Christians burdened by the fleshly personality which enjoys bullying, selfishness, and bragging (3-4). That’s when someone should set us down and explain that God does not want His blessings to be monopolized but shared—the very foundation of His kingdom (11)!

**Thurs Psalm 69:5-15** David was properly ashamed of his foolishness, his indiscretions and sins. He went through agonies because he had given a bad name to God’s people (5-8), and he repented (9-11). Fallout: rappers of the day made capital on his bad conduct (12). Lord, have mercy on us, that we do not treat Your blessings carelessly!

**Fri Mark 6:45-52** Mark provides the detail that *Jesus saw them straining at rowing* for hours before He strolled alongside, calming the turmoil as He went. He calmed another turmoil in the hearts of His disciples, who had struggled through stormy nights in their hearts, too; they were stymied until Jesus blessed them with His presence (51-52). Thank You, Jesus, for such mercy on Your/our brothers!

**Sat Romans 2:4-11** Epiphany season may fade away, but the factor remains that many folks *despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, but with hardness and impenitent heart are treasuring up for themselves God’s wrath.* May God preserve us from that pattern (8-9) while He grants us the daily epiphany of repentant faith (7,10)! Note: God doesn’t differentiate between Jew/non-Jew, Lutheran/non-Lutheran, traditional/non-traditional, young or elderly, rich or poor—for there is no partiality with God. Jesus has neutralized any/all partiality via His all-atoning self-sacrifice. Praise the Lord!