

**ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO

For
God's foolishness
is wiser
than human wisdom,
and
God's weakness
is stronger
than human strength.
1 Corinthians 1:25

**2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 14, 2018**

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2470 Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80214
(303) 233-5000 – www.denverlutheran.com

Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)
www.clclutheran.org

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

Pre-Service Devotion	Psalm 67 (pew bible, p.514)
Order of Worship	Service of Word & Sacrament (tan hymnal, p.12)
The Hymns	523, 704, 636 (1-4,8), 830
Scripture Lessons	1 Samuel 3:1-10, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Psalm of the Day	From Psalm 139

Sermon Text – John 1:43-51

INVITE OTHERS TO COME AND SEE JESUS!

Offering of Our Hearts and Gifts
Prayers & the Lord's Prayer
Communion Liturgy, pp.17-21 (Communion Hymn, 636, sts 1-4 & 8)
Benediction & Closing Hymn (830)

† † †

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.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

First Lesson – 1 Samuel 3:1-10

The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions. One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down. Again the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Psalm of the Day – From Psalm 139

Second Lesson – 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

"Everything is permissible for me"—but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"—but I will not be mastered by anything. "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food"—but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

Sermon Text – John 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see,"

said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false." "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that." He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

+ + +

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today (1/14)	8:30 am	Church Council Meeting
	9:30 am	Worship Service with Communion
	10:45 am	Sunday School (John the Baptist, NT 6)
	10:45 am	Mary & Martha Ladies' Meeting
Sunday (1/21)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School (Temptation of Christ, NT 7)
	10:45 am	Annual Voters' Meeting

EXTENDED CALENDAR

- Installation of Church Officers: Sunday, January 28
- Choir Practice, Sunday, January 28, 8;30 am
- Colorado Springs Worship Service: Sunday, January 28, 2:30 pm

SERVING US AT GOD'S HOUSE IN JANUARY

- Ushers: Wayne Ruegge, Joshua Ruegge
- Elder: Larry Reed
- Communion assistant: Mike Sprengeler

IN OUR PRAYERS: The family of Nathaniel Krause, twenty-one year old son of Pastor and Mrs. Paul Krause of Watertown, SD, who was summoned out of this life on January 1. His funeral service was held at Trinity Lutheran in Watertown on January 6.

MARY & MARTHA LADIES' MEETING: After the service today at 10:45 am. Ladies, please share any Mary and Martha nominations (for president and vice-president) with chairman, Ruth Greening. Prayerfully consider volunteering your talents for the work of the Lord that is being carried on by our ladies.

ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING: Next Sunday, January 21, following the service. The installation of our newly-elected officers will take place in the worship service on Sunday, January 28.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS

JANUARY 8-13 (catching up from last week)

Mon Zechariah 14:8-11 Prophecies are easy to decipher after they get fulfilled. Since this prophecy and its fulfillment lie in the distant past, we focus on the core meaning: the living water flowing from Jerusalem would be Jesus, who in summer and winter watered hearts with His gospel (8-9). En route, God would do some leveling and even promote national security (10-11) as ground work for Christmas.

Tues Matthew 13:10-17 The mysteries of heaven are an open book to those who have Jesus, while those who don't have Jesus just get more confused (11-13). It happens all the time, from Isaiah's day (14-15) to ours. Count yourself blessed to be able to see Jesus and to hear His voice speaking to you today in His living, life-giving Word (17).

Wed III John 1-14 How does God manage to make *souls prosper* (2)? By keeping them close to Jesus—the Way, the Truth, and the Life (4). Dear friends, let's not be like Diotrephes but rather like Gaius and Demetrius (14)—recognizing one another as God's children, speaking *face to face*, and wishing *peace* to one another.

Thurs Psalm 97:1-12 We learn to not fret over God's way of doing things, but rather relax in the afterglow of Christmas (5-6)—to the shame of worldlings (7) but enjoyable to us (8-9). Since you are freed from evil and safe from harm (10), *rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, and give thanks at the remembrance of Jesus' holy name. Amen!*

Fri Mark 4:24-25 God's child *takes heed*, "listens up" to God's voice and evaluates everything by His Word. Those who absorb His Word receive the blessings of His Word, and the blessed cycle repeats—from receiving to prospering to receiving to prospering, etc. But who-ever does not have Jesus and His Word in heart and life, even his opportunity to be blessed will evaporate (25). Lord, have mercy!

Sat 1 Corinthians 2:7-10 Questions and Answers: Q: What are we talking about? A: The wisdom of God. Q: How can anyone know the wisdom of God? A: God's wisdom is indeed a mystery to those who are fixated on this life—because they don't have the proper antennae to receive God's in-coming messages (9). Q: So what's to be done about that? A: God takes the problem into His own hands. Q: Really, how does He go about it? A: God sends His Spirit from heaven to make spiritual antennae sprout in human hearts, and then the Holy Spirit attunes the antennae to receive the most amazing messages from God's own heart. Q: How can I get in on this miracle? A: Attend to His Word, and God will take care of the rest. [Thank God!]

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR EPIPHANY DEVOTIONS

JANUARY 15-20

Mon Genesis 46:28-34 records the family epiphany of Joseph and his father finding each other after years of separation. Joseph was a wise man, for he managed to intercede with a king who was hostile to foreigners (reverse image of the Wise-Men whom King Herod welcomed). Maybe a small miracle, but God performs small as well as large ones. For the theme "Follow Me," this episode adds the flavor ". . . and bring your family along."

Tues Matthew 8:19-22 Here Jesus says, "Follow Me, even if you can't bring your family along." Jesus was popular, and new disciples wanted to join as His traveling companions. Okay. But following Jesus isn't all roses (20), for a person whose heart is home-bound (21) may have to let others take care of funeral arrangements while he's away (22)—a small sacrifice.

Wed Titus 2:1-10 Am I a good follower of Jesus by serving others as I serve Jesus? Am I serving Jesus well as a grandparent, wife, mother, or single adult (2-6)? Whatever my situation, I want to bring credit to Jesus (7-8)—which includes doing right by my boss, too—because my work ethic reflects on my service to God (9-10). ("Follow Me according to your station in life.")

Thurs Psalm 128:1-6 provides welcome encouragement in following Jesus, reminding us that it's a blessing to walk through life along with Jesus. Jesus supplies food and housing (1-2) and a family life is a joy to us (3-4). That's how the LORD takes care of His children in church, city, and family. ("Follow Me, and blessings will follow.")

Fri Luke 12:51-59 Following Jesus as His companions may put us into the line of fire with Him, too. We don't expect that all family members will go along with us, for they won't (52-53). When the signs of the times don't look good (54-56), let's use our self-defense instinct and figure out how to get along with others so they have no good reason to unfriend us (57-59). ("Follow Me in good times and in bad times, for your times are in My hands.")

Sat Romans 14:13-23 "Follow Me by protecting others from harm" is what avoiding offense is all about. Jesus wants us to watch out for the other fellow's welfare, and just as keep others out of harm's way when we fire up the chainsaw or swing an axe, so we want to keep others out of harm's way as we go about our Christian life. For example, since a Jewish convert might still be conscience-bound to avoid pork, don't invite him to a pork barbecue. And don't serve alcohol to a recovering alcoholic. "*It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything else by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.*" Following Jesus by protecting others from harm is a full-time job, for that's our full-time concern.

Savior, I long to walk Closer with Thee;
Led by Thy guiding hand,
Ever to be Constantly near Thy side,
Quickened and purified,
Living for Him who died Freely for me. Amen.